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Guests may not bring food, drinks or pets to Irish Fest.

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3rd Annual Fore Art Golf Outing

The 3rd Annual Fore Art Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 27th, starting at 11am with Lunch, and a 12:30pm shotgun start at the Ridge Country Club, 10522 S. California, in Chicago. Fees include lunch, dinner, cocktails, cart, contests and golf. The event funds fine arts programs at the not-for-profit Beverly Arts

Center. Registration deadline is June 4. Information/registration, Kate Coughlin, 773-445-3838 ext. 206 or kicoughlin@comcast.net.

Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. (111th Street south on Western), Chicago. 773-445-3838, www.beverlyartcenter.org.

UW-Milwaukee Center for Celtic Studies

The Center for Celtic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has announced their Fall 2011 Courses. The Center offers a wide range of course and research topics relating to cultures—both historical and modern—that share Celtic influence: the early Continental Celts and the Breton, Cornish, Galician,

Irish, Manx, Scots, and Welsh peoples.

Students can concentrate their studies on the Celtic languages, both spoken and written, or they may choose to investigate the broader themes of the Celtic world, such as art, archaeology, literature, history, folklore, music and myth.

Students who wish to earn their Certificate in Celtic Studies should note that Fall is the only semester that Celtic 133: Celtic Crossings, which is required to receive the certificate, is offered.

Visit <http://www4.uwm.edu/celtic/> for a full listing of course offerings.

Email John Gleeson at gleeson@uwm.edu for more info.

Collins Engineers, Inc Ten Years in Ireland

As 2010 drew to a close, economic conditions in Ireland were certainly not the best. Undeterred, Chicago-based Collins Engineers, Inc., showing its confidence in a recovery, moved forward with its plans to open a second office in Belfast.

Collins opened its first Ireland office in Dublin in 2001. Since that time, by hiring locally, Collins has developed an Irish staff with expertise in transportation structures and underwater engineering, mirroring the capabilities of Collins' services offered in the United States.

Collins, a thirty-year-old civil/structural consulting engineering firm with twelve offices throughout the United States, specializes in the design and construction inspection of bridges and waterfront structures, and the inspection and evaluation of existing structures. One of the unique services offered by Collins is underwater inspections using engineer-divers. Collins has over fifty engineers in the U.S. and Ireland who are also divers. www.collinsengr.com.

Curtin Clan Gathers in Chicago

The Curtin Clan Inc. will hold its seventh Clan Gathering in Chicago, June 24th-26th, 2011, at the Irish American Heritage Center, 2626 N. Knox Ave. Come and enjoy Curtin genealogy, Irish heritage, local speakers and meet Margaret Curtin of Australia, world's foremost authority on the Curtins of Ireland. (More details at <http://curtin.org>.)

Among the many highlights is Saturday's Bi-annual Banquet for all Curtins who have come far and wide with music by the Chancey Brothers. Sunday events include socializing at the Crowne Plaza for breakfast and for those who wish, Mass at the historic Old St. Patrick's Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Attend the entire program or just the banquet—registration applications and accommodation information can be found at <http://curtin.org>.

For more info contact Dan Curtin, at curtinclan@berk.com.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West 

Greek Drama and Irish Theatre

Greek drama has influenced theatre of the Western World for over 2,500 years! And, it directly influenced 32 modern Irish plays.

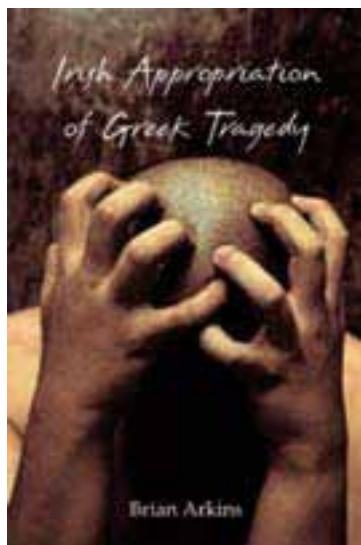
That influence is the focus of this book, *Irish Appropriation of Greek Tragedy*, by Brian Atkins.

Greek plays (really Athenian plays) were written to honor the God, Dionysus. Greeks believed he was one of the twelve Gods on Mount Olympus. He was the God of the energy of life, or the life force, and he encouraged agricultural and human fertility. He was also the God who protected theatre. He was also the God of masks used in Greek theatres to project a character's personality, or persona.

For many hundreds of years Greeks celebrated the death and resurrection of Dionysus. They believed that each Spring the God died, triumphed over death. Forty-one plays written to honor Dionysus survive. They were written by playwrights who competed for prize money, and for the great

honor of having their play chosen. Those plays still have a powerful influence on today's Irish theatre.

The book has an excellent and



useful introduction, index and bibliography.

Everything has been carefully footnoted. The footnotes are neatly tucked behind each chapter.

Brian Atkins, the author, is Professor of Classics at National University of Ireland, Galway. He earned a PhD in Latin, and authored ten books with Greek and Roman themes.

These are other things that caught my attention.

Webster says: a tragedy is "a serious play with an unhappy ending."

Dionysus represents "everything that escapes human reason and can only be attributed to the unforeseeable action of the Gods."

The life force, or energy of Dionysus represented freedom to the ancients.

The function of the chorus in Greek plays was to ask questions of the wealthy and powerful in the play. If there was a great king, or wealthy person on the stage, the chorus might ask, "What about ordinary people?" or "Do you care only about wealth and power?"

Irish Appropriation of Greek Tragedy by Brian Atkins. Caryfort Press and DuFour Editions, Chester Springs, PA 2010. 149 pages, \$33.95. info@dufour Editions.com,

There is a Place for Fantasy

This book is the result of a lifetime's devotion and work. The author, Patricia Lynch, devoted her life to collecting Irish stories and legends.

She also wrote the pamphlet, *Rebel Ireland*. This was her famous eye-witness account of the Easter, 1916 events in Dublin.

Lynch was born in 1898, and passed away in 1972. She was the very prolific author of fifty novels, and 200 short stories. Lynch's writing was rich with the enchantment and magic of Irish history and culture.

She describes the robust heroic tale of Cuchulain (sounds like Cuhullin) to the humorous story of the Kingdom of the Dwarves.

Tales of Irish Enchantment is a large 8.5 by 11.5 inch book filled with Irish stories and legends. It is

accompanied with bold, colorful illustrations.

Her children's fiction ranges over various genres, fantasy, realism and historical fiction. It portrays Ireland as a place of strange happenings and enchantments.

Robert Dunbar, of Children's Books Ireland, says about this book first published in 1952, that "Ireland may have changed almost beyond



recognition, and development of children's literature over the past few decades may have taken its young readers into the unexpected domains, but the human need for magic, for miracle, for enchantment, remains perhaps more than ever—and Patricia Lynch's stories provide all three in abundance."

Tales of Irish Enchantment by Patricia Lynch. Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. Chester Springs, PA, 2011. 208 pages; \$29.95. info@dufour Editions.com.

Andrea Beaton & Nuala Kennedy in Milwaukee

With their furious fiddling, enchanting flute, gorgeous singing and high-energy step dancing, Andrea Beaton and Nuala Kennedy will bring serious girl power to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., in Milwaukee, on Saturday, May 21, at 7:30pm. Backing Beaton and Kennedy on guitar is Louis-Charles Vigneau from Canada's Prince Edward Island band Vishtèn.

Pre-concert music in Quinlan's Pub from 6:30-7:15pm will be performed by Atlantic Wave. One of Southeast Wisconsin's most popular Celtic bands, their style is built around the harmonizing fiddles of Kaitlin Hahn and Ed Paloucek with lead vocals and guitar



Andrea Beaton

by Barry Houlehen and additional vocals and percussion by John Karr.

Originally from Ireland and now living in Scotland, Kennedy combines traditional and original material from both countries in a musically dynamic way and is recognized for her eclectic cross-genre work.

Coming from Cape Breton's extraordinary musical tradition as well as generations of musical Beatons and MacMasters (well-known fiddler Natalie MacMaster is a cousin), Beaton is making a name for herself with the power of her bow, the drive and swing of her timing, and the crispness of her attack.

Beaton, Kennedy and Vigneau will

present workshops in fiddle, flute/whistle, guitar and Cape Breton song and step dance during two sessions from 1-3:45pm on May 21 at the ICHC.



Nuala Kennedy

The fee is \$25 for each workshop or \$40 for two with discounts for groups of five or more. For information and to register, call (262) 370-3686 or e-mail kaitlinhahn@earthlink.net.

Tickets for the show are \$19 in advance and \$23 the day of concert with discounts for students and groups. To order visit www.ichc.net or call 414-345-8800.

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Liz Carroll Wins TG4 Trad Composer of the Year 2011

Born in Chicago to Irish parents, Liz Carroll has been composing since childhood.

Her tunes can now be heard worldwide in traditional Irish music performance and have been recorded by countless artists and groups.

As well as being nominated for a Grammy award for her album, she published her compositions in a book that is already a classic.

An esteemed champion fiddler as well as a prolific and versatile composer, the 2011 TG4 *Cumadóir na Bliana* is Liz Carroll.

The 2011 awards were presented and



recorded at a gala concert in Wexford Opera House on April 2nd and broadcast on Irish TV on Easter Sunday.

World Premiere of *The Outgoing Tide*

Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd. in Skokie, will present the World Premiere of *The Outgoing Tide*, by Bruce Graham, from May 12-June 19, 2011.

In a summer cottage on Chesapeake Bay, Gunner has hatched an unorthodox plan to secure his family's future

but meets with resistance from his wife and son, who have plans of their own. As winter approaches, the three must quickly find common ground and come to an understanding-before the tide goes out. This new drama, featuring Northlight favorite Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe nominee John Mahoney, perhaps best known for his role on *Frasier*, hums with dark humor and powerful emotion.


847-673-6300; northlight.org.

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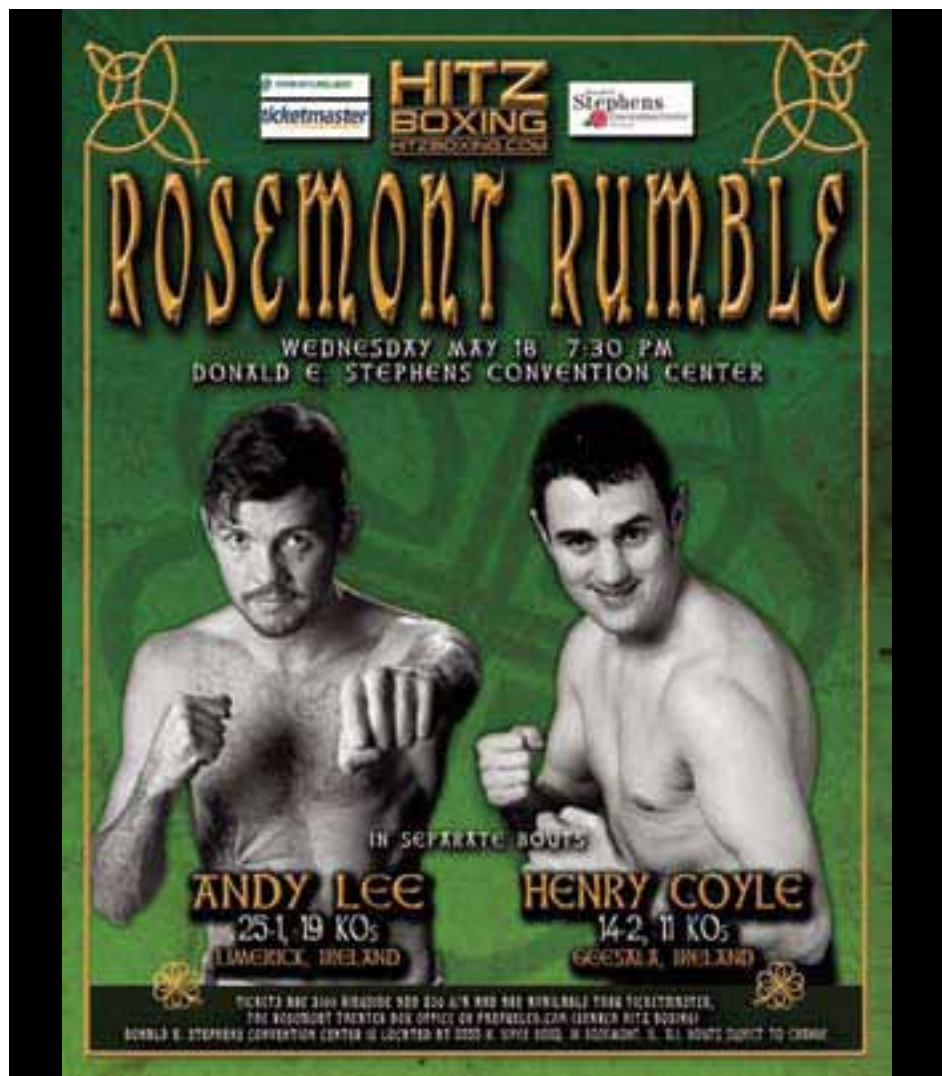
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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Snippets

Obama’s Visit

As you read this offering, president Obama is making final plans for his well publicized trip to Ireland this month. So, what can we expect from this trip? The trip is certainly meant to maintain the good relations between our two countries. It is also not lost on our political commentators, that Irish born or more accurately, people of Irish ancestry make up approximately 40 million of the US population. That is a significant number given that Irish-Americans have always played an important role in political life in this country. Therefore, as Obama pursues his path to seek a second term as President, it is seen by many pundits as an effort to seek the lion’s share of the Irish-American vote.

From Ireland’s perspective, the visit of President Obama is another opportunity to, in the words of Enda Kenny: “Send a clear message to the world, that Ireland is open for

business.” That business is above all a huge effort by the coalition government, to create employment. With the insistence of the Kenny administration on keeping the rate of corporate tax at 12.5%, it is hoped that Ireland will continue to be an attractive place for US business to set up shop. Ireland is an ideal “gateway” to the EU and has much to offer in terms of infrastructure to companies wishing to invest particularly in the areas of research and development. Ireland also has a very well educated workforce, especially in the fields of science and technology.

E-3 Visa Agreement

Reading the Irish papers in recent months, one can’t fail to notice the continuing impact of the new wave of emigration. This is particularly true in towns and villages west of the Shannon. Communities struggle as the best and brightest leave in numbers not seen since the 1980’s.

From a US-Ireland relationship

point of view, efforts are being discussed to find a new program to deal with this reality. Even when the economy in Ireland was doing well, there remained the demand for work visas to the US. That demand is now more urgent once again. Young Irish citizens continue to come in search of employment. In the pre-9/11 world, it was easy for the Irish to blend in and build a future here, even as undocumented workers. That is no longer the case, and in order that we can have an orderly and legal means of dealing with the current reality, it is necessary to find a framework for this to happen. I would hope that the Irish government would use the Obama trip as the perfect opportunity to sign such an agreement while the President is in Ireland.

The timing is right, the need is urgent and we urge the Irish government to do everything in its power to make this happen.

Hearings on Capitol Hill

The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing last month on the H1B Visa program. The hearing was not of great value in that it amounted to a “talking shop” style exercise. As one of my friends would put it, “there was much hot air, but no real substance.” These hearings are useful in that they can highlight the inadequacies in the present system. My difficulty with hearings on immigration topics is this, why waste taxpayer’s time on highlighting the obvious? Anyway who has taken the time to study the issue knows what’s wrong with our system. The time for talking is long past. What we need is to have our elected officials grasp the nettle and offer real solutions.

In the past couple of months we again see states trying to fix the problems of our broken system on a local basis. I applaud the legislators for their efforts, but again this is a waste of taxpayer dollars. Immigration is a federal issue and the only way to fix it is on a national basis.

The approval rates for politicians are at an historic low and this includes the ratings for Congress as a whole. It is easy to understand why

people are frustrated at the inability of our elected leaders to actually work for the common good. As I prepare to submit this offering, the leadership of the House and Senate are locked in discussions to avert a government shutdown. And the sad thing is this; both parties are looking at and putting an enormous effort into how to explain their failure to reach an agreement on the budget to the general public. The next part is so obvious that it is pathetic; each side is going to put all their efforts into how they can place the blame on the other. One man’s suggestion to me recently was comical, but maybe it is crazy enough to work. He proposed locking the doors on Congress, feed the elected officials bread and water, give them ten days to solve their differences and come out with a workable compromise.

Golf

I’m happy to announce that our Annual Golf Outing will be hosted at St. Andrew’s Golf & Country Club in West Chicago. The cost is the same as last year \$100 per person. This includes, Green Fees, Golf Cart with GPS and dinner. The prizes will be up to our usual high standard. Should you wish to sponsor the event, take an ad in our book or play, please contact the C.I.I.S. office at 773-282-8445, or Paul Treacy at 312-907-4440, or myself in whatever way you please.

On the topic of sponsorship, we are most grateful to all those who came out in such big numbers for our Annual Dinner Dance on April 2nd. All had a great night as we honored the great Pat Noonan.

Words of Great Wisdom

The Native American Code of Ethics

1. Rise with the sun to pray. Pray alone. Pray often. The Great Spirit will listen, if you only speak.
2. Be tolerant of those who are lost on their path. Ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy and greed stem from a lost soul. Pray that they will find guidance.
3. Search for yourself, by yourself. Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road, and

yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.

4. Treat the guests in your home with much consideration. Serve them the best food, give them the best bed and treat them with respect and honor.

5. Do not take what is not yours whether from a person, a community, the wilderness or from a culture. If it was not earned or given, it is not yours.

6. Respect all things that are placed upon this earth—whether it be people or plant.

7. Honor other people’s thoughts, wishes and words. Never interrupt another or mock or rudely mimic them. Allow each person the right to personal expression.

8. Never speak of others in a bad way. The negative energy that you put out into the universe will multiply when it returns to you.

9. All persons make mistakes. And all mistakes can be forgiven.

10. Bad thoughts cause illness of the mind, body and spirit. Practice optimism.

11. Nature is not FOR us, it is a PART of us. They are part of your worldly family.

12. Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life’s lessons. When they are grown, give them space to grow.

13. Avoid hurting the hearts of others. The poison of your pain will return to you.

14. Be truthful at all times. Honesty is the test of ones will within this universe.

15. Keep yourself balanced. Your Mental self, Spiritual self, Emotional self, and Physical self—all need to be strong, pure and healthy. Work out the body to strengthen the mind. Grow rich in spirit to cure emotional ails.

16. Make conscious decisions as to who you will be and how you will react. Be responsible for your own actions.

17. Respect the privacy and personal space of others. Do not touch the personal property of others—especially sacred and religious objects. This is forbidden.

18. Be true to yourself first. You cannot nurture and help others if you cannot nurture and help yourself first.

19. Respect others religious beliefs. Do not force your belief on others.

20. Share your good fortune with others. Participate in charity.

Should you have any comments, suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me at 773 282 8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.

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7pm TANTRUM (Kathleen Keane et al)

7.30 Sean Cleland/Jimmy Keane/
Timmy Sullivan et al



8pm Cunningham's et al

8.30 Kevin O'Donnell

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10pm Chicago Reel

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A Chairde:

Irish Fest on Memorial weekend is always welcomed by the Irish-American community in the Midwest as the first sign that Summer fun is here. 2011 is the 25th Gaelic Park Irish Fest and Festival Chairman Frank Bradley and his committee have put together a remarkable program over 4 days that has something for everybody. Irish Fest at Gaelic Park is a family affair; it is a joy to see a second generation of young families come to "The Park" to share and create memories with their young and not so young children. The child in all of us is stirred by the sights and sounds of a carnival, a feature that is unique to our Fest. The initial entry fee covers unlimited carnival rides, so parents never have to say "no" when little Johnny requests just one more ride on the bumper cars. A tent dedicated to shows and entertainment for the wee folk gives Mom and Dad a chance to recharge their batteries. Gaelic Park over 25 years has introduced many entertainers to Chicago and this year Ronan Tynan makes his debut at Irish Fest. The full lineup is available elsewhere on these pages and many Fest favorites are back again. At Gaelic Park we recognize that bringing in top class entertainment on a variety of stages and making it affordable is a priority. I recommend you visit www.Chicagogaelicpark.org where you will find a link to purchase one day tickets for \$10 or a 4-day weekend pass for \$25, and as always parking is free. Irish Fest at Gaelic Park would not be possible without the commitment of our directors, past and present, our volunteers and our staff, and we are very proud to offer this wonderful weekend of celebrating all that is Irish to everybody in the Midwest.

John Devitt, President



Performing Arts Stage Irish Fest

has a full schedule planned for your enjoyment on each day of the Fest, presented by many different theatre groups. Friday evening the performances run from 6pm to 9pm; Saturday/Sunday 12:30pm to 8pm; Monday 1pm to 5:30pm. Check the exact times for each theatre group when you arrive at the Fest—you won't want to miss one of these fabulous performances!

NEW FOR FEST 2011

Special 25th ANNIVERSARY Online Admission Prices!

Four exciting days of the top Irish entertainment on six lively stages all for one low admission price—rain or shine! Admission tickets include unlimited amusement rides by Spectacular Midways!

\$25 for 4 DAY Weekend Pass

\$10 Daily Admission
13-65 years of age

\$ 8 Daily Admission
under 12/over 65

No refunds-Non transferable.

Photo ID required at admission will call.

See web site for details www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Chicago Feis will take place at Gaelic Park on Monday, May 30th from 9am to 3pm. The competitions will commence in the Emerald and Tara rooms with over 400 competitors. **No stages will be outside.** The entry Fee is \$10 for each adult from 7am until noon, which includes the Festival and all carnival rides.



Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Festival

Memorial Day Weekend 2011

Celebrating 25 Years of Irish Fest on Six Stages

Gaelic Storm will be performing on the main stage Sunday and Monday nights, with their compelling originals and fresh arrangements steeped in Celtic traditional melody combined with their unique blend of world rhythms. The band takes a distinct pride in the fact that its music and performances are a celebration of Irish culture as well as a medium of



connection for many of the 36 million Irish-Americans. Yet, while Gaelic Storm plays Celtic music that harkens back to the traditional music of Ireland, they are hardly traditionalists, adding modern sounds and drawing influences from American rock and pop as well as music styles from around the world. At the center of the band are **Patrick Murphy** (Cork, Ireland) and **Steve Twigger** (Coventry, England). As the main singer, accordion player and resident Irishman, Murphy is generally the recognizable face of the band and his knack for storytelling is the inspiration for many of the band's songs. Guitarist and vocalist, Twigger is the primary songwriter in

the band and produced *Cabbage*, with co-production by percussionist **Ryan Lacey** (Pasadena, CA), who has been a member of the band since 2003. Pipes and whistle player **Peter Purvis** (Ottawa, Canada) joined Gaelic Storm in 2004 and violinist **Jessie Burns** (Suffolk, England) came onboard in 2007. The band talks of good times for both the band and its fans at the concerts and

after, but the true foundation of what keeps Gaelic Storm going is the ongoing comradeship amongst the group. Gaelic Storm has had seven Billboard Chart topping albums, song placement on two EA Sports Games, and countless television and radio appearances. Gaelic Storm has sold out hundreds of theatres and performing arts centers and

has played to audiences totaling in the millions and there are official videos and heaps of fan-posted live YouTube clips (often with the crowd singing as loud as the band). **Cabbage** is the band's seventh studio album and the fourth on their own label Lost Again Records. Following the path of the band's 2008 release, **What's The Rumpus?**, *Cabbage* debuted at #1 on the Billboard World Chart, additionally peaking at #14 on the iTunes overall Album Chart and #11 on the Billboard Independent Album Chart. www.facebook.com/GaelicStorm <http://www.gaelicstorm.com>.

Ronan Tynan, truly a modern day "Renaissance Man", will be appearing at Gaelic Park on Sunday evening. Faced with numerous challenges throughout his well documented life, he has persevered with enormous passion and determination. Introduced to international audiences as a member of the Irish Tenors, **Tynan** quickly became known for his unique voice and irresistible appeal. Following his mother's advice to always follow your dreams, Tynan decided to launch a solo career, and has achieved the fame and adoration that could have existed only in the farthest reaches of his dreams.



gaelic storm 🍀 ronan tynan 🍀 leahy 🍀 de danann 🍀 tartan terrors 🍀 declan nerney 🍀 fenians
 american english 🍀 infinity 🍀 girsa 🍀 sean wilson 🍀 liz carroll 🍀 sandcarvers 🍀 7th heaven 🍀 four courts
 crossroads 🍀 chicago reel 🍀 red rebel county 🍀 kathleen keane 🍀 tommy goodwin&sharon 🍀 larkin moran
 bernie glim country roads 🍀 joe cullen 🍀 baal tinne 🍀 irish musicians 🍀 gerard haughey 🍀 sean o'donnell
 shannon rovers 🍀 emerald society 🍀 joe mcshane 🍀 ray gavin 🍀 solid-aire 🍀 character fleadh
 o'learys lantern 🍀 week back 🍀 celtic sounds 🍀 patrick guinee 🍀 pat daly 🍀 mulligan stew 🍀 sean&charlie
 irish music club 🍀 pat finnegan 🍀 billy o'donaghue 🍀 murphy roche

Memorial Day Weekend 2011

Celebrating 25 Years of Irish Fest on Six Stages

The hottest of contemporary Irish musicians will be in Oak Forest over the Memorial Weekend for the 25th Anniversary of Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest. This emerald extravaganza brings the best of contemporary (and traditional) Irish headliners to six exciting stages, May 27-30. To celebrate the Fest's 25th anniversary a special four-day discount pass for \$25 is available at Chicago-

Taking the Celtic scene by storm, the Tartan Terrors combine music and comedy with championship dancing, world class bagpiping and driving drums to deliver an energetic and all-around unforgettable performance. Members of the Tartan Terrors have performed at prestigious Festivals in four different continents, at Highland Games and Theatres of North America, for President

impressive list of accomplishments and honors and were inducted into the Guinness Wall of Fame.

Infinity proudly returns to Irish Fest. Infinity continues to break attendance records at Clubs and Festivals across the Midwest. Their high energy performance, powerful vocals and song list make for a memorable concert. But more importantly, they maintain the unique ability to engage crowds and make audiences feel part of the show.

American English takes that stage again this year. This perennial favorite is hailed as the best Beatles tribute band having been featured on WGN, CBS, FOX, 190 North, The Travel Channel, BBC, ABC and NBC. The Beatles concert experience is recreated to the finest detail, including the signature mop-top hair, accents and costumes.

Making their debut at Irish Fest this year, Red Rebel County is a ten person tour de force paying tribute to their Irish heritage and rock roots. What these Chicago south-siders originally intended as musical fun quickly banded into a solid musical unit performing all across the city in clubs and special events. With their classic 'Chicago Blue Collar' sound, they bring energy, enthusiasm and hard-working musicianship to their live shows. Like Irish Fest, Chicago's own 7th Heaven also celebrated a 25th Anniversary. They've had a great year on the Billboard Charts with two releases in 2010; performed at Soldier Field with Bon Jovi; received coverage on TV's ABC, NBC, FOX and WGN and charted the hit "Better This Way" at #2 among Chicago radio stations.

Milwaukee's own, The Sandcarvers, deliver some of the best Celtic rock on the planet. Their original songs tell stories from real life by combining strong solo voices and vocal harmonies with blistering instrumental skills. They also put a wicked spin on Irish traditionals, that will make you laugh, cry,

think or forget—depending on your mood.

In addition to scorching hot contemporary performances the Fest will also

Character Fleadh, O'Leary's Lantern, Cirra Walton & Friends, Week Back, Celtic Sounds, Patrick Guinee, Pat Daly & The Sounds of



Tartan Terrors

GaelicPark.org through May 26.

This Chicago tradition also features full carnival rides, on-site parking, special events for children, Gaelic football and hurling, Ceilidh dancing, ponies and draught horses, dog exhibits, shopping and Irish cultural exhibits all surrounded by food, refreshments and great fun. But, it's the collection of contemporary music headliners that fills the air and makes this one of America's premier Irish festivals.

Clinton, Queen Elizabeth II and Good Morning America. If ever there was a band whose members make up a potent body of music, it is The Fenians. The Fenians are an electrifying Irish musical quintet from Orange County, CA offering a mix of their original creations, and contemporary and traditional songs. Their foundation is decidedly Celtic, but there is no mistaking the influence of Rock, Folk, Bluegrass, Jazz and World influences. The Fenians have garnered an



Gaelic Storm

highlight traditional Irish headliners including, Ronan Tynan, well-known as one of the Irish Tenors, Leahy, De Danann, Declan Nerney & His Band, Chicago Reel, The Four Courts, Kathleen Keane, Girs, Sean Wilson, Larkin & Moran Brothers, Tommy Goodwin & Sharon and Liz Carroll.

There are plenty of other

Green, Mulligan Stew, Sean & Charlie, Irish Music Club of Chicago, Pat Finnegan & Billy O'Donoghue, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, Girls of Murphy Roche, and many more!

The special four-day \$25 anniversary discount pass, performance schedules and other online ticket specials are available online



De Danann

outstanding performers at Chicago Gaelic Parks Irish Fest, including, Crossroads Ceili Band, Bernie Glim & Country Roads, Joe Cullen & Kathleen Keane, Baal Tinne. Irish Musicians, Gerard Haughey & Sean O'Donnell, Shannon Rovers Pipe Band, Pipes & Drums of The Emerald Society, Joe McShane, Ray Gavin Band, Solid-Aire,

at www.chicagogaelic-park.org. Standard daily gate admission to all six musical stages, full carnival midway and on-site parking is \$15. Adults over 65 years and kids under 12 are only \$12, and youngsters under 3 years are free. There is an early admission discount during the first hour of each day.





Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



GAA Collegiate Championships On Memorial Day Weekend

will see the first National Collegiate GAA Championship at Gaelic Park. University students from all over the country will converge at Gaelic Park for a weekend of matches. Two competitions will be held. One will be comprised of full teams from the University of California at Berkeley, Indiana University and Purdue University. These teams will play a round robin format on Saturday with the top two teams playing in the National Collegiate Final on Sunday. Berkeley has won the California Collegiate GAA championship for the past two years while Indiana and Purdue will face off on April 30th in the Midwest Final. The second competition will be a best of three between an East Select team and a West Select. Two matches will be played on Saturday with the third and final match being played on Sunday. A collegiate select team will also take the pitch against the 2010 North American Junior C Hurling Champions, the Michael Cusack Hurling Club. Also on the schedule is a demonstration by



the Chicago Youth Board. University hurling clubs have taken off over the past few years. So much so that separate organizations were formed in California and the Midwestern United States. A meeting was held in October 2009, bringing together university club representatives and members of the larger GAA community in the United States to form the National Collegiate GAA. This is a very exciting moment in the history of the sport in the United States. There have only been a handful of university hurling clubs to exist since the founding of the GAA in 1884. This competition illustrates not only the growth of the sport but also the dedication of administrators and players alike in continuing Ireland's pastime. The schedule:

SAT Afternoon		SUN Afternoon	
12pm	Berkeley v. Indiana	12pm	Cusacks v. College Select
1:30	East v. West	1:00	Chicago Youth
3:00	Purdue v. Berkeley	3:00	National Collegiate Final
4:30	East v. West	4:30	East v. West
6:00	Indiana v. Purdue		

Mother's Day Celtic Supper

will be a celebration of Mother's Day on Sunday May 8th. A special hot buffet dinner is planned that includes prime rib and boneless breast of chicken, with a separate buffet for the children. Dinner will be served from 4pm to 7pm, and dancing to the music of John Dillon until 9pm. Complimentary flowers will be presented to all of the ladies. Reservations can be made by calling 708.687.9323. The admission price is \$21 for adults and \$11 for children 12 and under.

This will be the last Celtic Supper for the season, resuming again in November. (The May 1 Celtic Supper will have music by Ray Gavigan at the regular price of

\$16 for adults and \$8 for children under 12).

Monthly Mass and Breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 8th at 10am with a delicious Irish breakfast served following Mass. **This will be the last Mass of the season, and it will resume again on the second Sunday in October.**

Sunday Live Broadcasts (and over the internet) from 7-9pm from Gaelic Park by Harry Costelloe, Mary Hackett, and Mary Rioridan on WCEV 1450 AM. Hear all the week's Irish news and sports direct from Ireland, and all the latest events and goings on at Gaelic Park. Call (708) 687-9330 to request a song or dedication.

Gaelic Park Hosts Ireland's Top Coaches

Saturday May 14th Gaelic Park will enjoy North America's first ever coaching conference for GAA teams. From 9:30am to 4:30pm, the day will consist of four guest speakers and practical sessions covering all aspects of coaching for all age groups. Chicago's Central Division Board has put an immense focus on youth development this year with its new North American Youth Board. Along with many adult teams, Chicago boasts three long standing youth teams throughout the city. St. Jarlath's, on the Southside, hosts practices on the Gaelic Park fields, while the North side contingent, run by Chicago Celtic Youth, play at Maryville Academy in Des Plaines. And the Windy City Gaels enjoy great participation from children both in the City of Chicago and the Western suburbs. The Youth clubs all over Chicago land are starting practices, and are welcoming new players (boys and girls) from ages 6 to 18 to come out and play Gaelic Football and Hurling. The playing season will start in June and run till early August. Please contact Tom Sheehy with any inquiries at (773) 329-6263 or e-mail him at tom.sheehy.gda.central.usa@gaa.ie. The Patriots Gaelic Football Golf Outing is planned for May 21st at Silver Lake Country club. The 18 holes of golf, with cart, lunch, dinner and prizes is just \$100 per golfer. Contact John Barrett at (708) 525-6329 or chicagopatriot@gmail.com.

Greg Miller NAGAA Central Board PRO



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- 5/07 John Dillon
- 5/14 Ray Gavigan
- 5/20 John Dillon
- 5/21 Bernie Glim & Country Roads

The Pub will not be open over the Irish Fest Memorial Day Weekend.

Friday night entertainment begins at 7:30pm and Saturday night at 9:30pm.

Check Website for Full Schedule

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL
708.687.9323

www.chicagogaelicpark.org

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Looking Up Old Relatives Is Easy In Ireland

Liam Cassin On The Joys Of Genealogy And The Thrill Of Discovering Your Irish Roots



When President Barack Obama travels home to his ancestral village of Moneygall in County Offaly later this month he will be following in the footsteps of millions of Irish Americans before him, tracing his lineage back to the old sod. President Obama is not the first American President with Irish roots. All in all 16 out of the 44 leaders of this country have had some Irish blood in their veins. In recent times we have had Ronald Reagan and John F Kennedy, both of whom made historic trips to visit the homes of their ancestors—in JFK's case it was to Wexford and in Reagan's to the small village of Ballyporeen in County Tipperary. But it was perhaps our seventh President, Andrew Jackson, who was the most Irish of the all. Jackson's parents and their two eldest sons emigrated from Carrickfergus in County Antrim in 1765. Two years later young Andrew was born and would go on to become, among other things, the hero of the Battle of New Orleans.

We Irish have been an integral part of America since long before the time of George Washington and now people of Irish ancestry make up over one eighth of the entire population. That's 40 million people. If you are reading this you are probably one of them!

It wasn't always so easy to visit the land of our forefathers. In fact, until relatively recently it was very difficult and before the advent of mass air transit in the 1960s it was virtually impossible for most. That's why, when someone left Ireland for the New World, the people they were leaving behind held a special gathering of friends and family to see them off. They called it the "American Wake," because they knew they would never see their friend or loved one again.

So for over three hundred years the Irish that came here seeking a new and a better life knew well that one consequence of their emigration would be an almost total loss of connection with family. Over 200,000 Scots Irish came in the eighteenth century, including Mr and Mrs Jackson. Over a million came during and immediately after the Famine of the 1840s and



Clockwise from top left: Children in Moneygall, County Offaly, celebrate President Barack Obama's Inauguration; President Ronald Reagan addresses well-wishers in Ballyporeen, County Tipperary; President Kennedy being welcomed in Wexford.

hundreds of thousands more in the early part of the twentieth century. They came to escape religious persecution, starvation or economic destitution, but they all came and when they did they set down new roots. But what of the old roots? Until the last several years, finding information on your Irish history and family tree was both immensely time-consuming and expensive, and often impossible. Nowadays, just like getting to Ireland, things are a great deal easier.

Technology has helped a lot. Irish records have been digitized and organized in a highly searchable way. The entire Irish census for the years 1901 and 1911, for example, have already been computerized. But if you really want to trace your roots and take a walk in your forbears' footsteps, see the land they came from and meet with long lost cousins, there is absolutely no substitute for going to Ireland.

Churches are a good place to start if you have

some idea of a geographical location. All keep records of baptisms, marriages and deaths and most are old enough to have records at least a couple of hundred years old. A word to the wise, a courteous phone call or email to the parish administrator before you get there will normally work wonders.

The National Library of Ireland is on Kildare Street in Dublin, a stone's throw from Grafton Street, the Capital city's world famous shopping district. There is a free Genealogical Advisory Service at the Library making it the perfect place to start your research. The genealogist on duty will provide you with an overview of Irish genealogical records and explain how to find and access them. The National Archives of Ireland, another invaluable resource, are a 15 minute walk from the National Library taking you through the glorious St Stephen's Green. The National Archives also has an advisory service staffed by a genealogist who will assist

you in locating records such as Census 1901 and 1911, wills, Griffiths Primary Valuation, Tithe Appointment Books and the other holdings at the Archives.

The Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, located in Belfast, is key to researching ancestors who were born or lived in Northern Ireland. It holds the Griffiths Valuation and Tithe Appointment books, as well as valuations books, will calendars and wills, estate papers and church records for most denominations.

The General Register Office in Dublin holds all civil birth, marriage and death records from 1864 to 1921 for the whole island of Ireland. After that date all records concerning Northern Ireland are held in the General Register Office Belfast.

These and over 50 other genealogy resource centers all over Ireland are featured at www.discoverireland.com along with some good advice about how to begin your search.

Of course once you know where your ancestors hailed from the next logical step is to pay a visit. Often, especially in rural areas, it is likely that you can meet some of those distant relatives. This is not as fanciful as it might sound because, just like anywhere else, members of the same family can stay in the same village or townland for generations. There is nothing to beat a walk around your own place, imagining the lives of your ancestors. They are a part of you as Ireland is a part of you.

Finding out who your relatives were and where you came from is a huge thrill and you would be amazed at how accessible this information can be. The miracles of modern technology and travel have give us all this wonderful opportunity to reach across the centuries and make connections that long ago seemed broken forever. Who knew, including the man himself, that our current President's great great great grandfather, Falmouth Kearney, had lived in Moneygall until he emigrated to New York City aboard the SS Marmion in 1850 at the tender age of 19? And now President Obama will be able to experience for himself the special warmth the Irish reserve for a homecoming.

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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



McNally's Pub Tour of Ireland The Livedance Tour

O'Hare, Terminal 5, 2nd of April, 3:30pm

The McNally's Pub Tour of Ireland was gathering at the Aer Lingus check-in line. Thirty-two of us and my anxiety is in full gallop. Will they all be here in time? Mary Pat Flanagan from CIE Tours is there and in control. We are a motley crew of travelers from Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico, Arizona, Georgia and the Chicago suburbs with McNally's Irish Pub in St. Charles as a common denominator. I have met or spoken to most of them as I promised them a memorable jaunt around Ireland with pubs and music and some great sightseeing—and now I must deliver.

We have a comfortable overnight flight courtesy of Aer Lingus and arrive safe in Dublin airport at the newly opened Terminal Two, where we meet Harry Crofton, our CIE driver and guide for the week. The sun was shining on this beautiful spring morning as the smok-

ers among us burst out of the terminal on to the sidewalk for our first smoke since checking in at O'Hare. We gathered our luggage, found the four members of our group who had flown to Dublin ahead of us and got on the bus, tired but happy to be there at last, and heading to the Man of War Pub for our first Irish Breakfast and indeed, our first pint on the Holy Ground.

Breakfast was brilliant, so were the pints and I was delighted when my daughter Sharon, along

in the Westmeath town of Kilbeggan, to sample their whiskey. Harry was a GEM. He entertained and educated and I knew that we were in good hands for our tour.

Galway was bustling with people as we arrived; they were enjoying the sunshine and walking the promenade. The Salthill Hotel was full of families celebrating Mother's Day and watching Gaelic Football and we first heard Harry issue the command, "Dinner at 6-turty and bags outside your rooms at 8am," which became his catch phrase for the week.

We hit the music pubs of Galway that night and were joined by some *Blarney on the Air* listeners from the States and even John Cullinane came up from

with some really great songs of his own. Irish soprano, Emma Kate Tobia, came to see us at the Trident Hotel in Kinsale and shared her talent too. What a treat to hear her sing for us in her own town. The Merry Ploughboys in Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, put on a great dinner and show and I'm looking forward to seeing them all here in Chicago this summer. There were other musicians of course, whose names I never got and again, my crew knew the words of most of the popular Irish ballads by the end of the week.

The Guinness, Harp, Smithwicks, and Bulmers flowed and shots of Baby Guinness became our signature late night drink as we partied the week away. I'm proud of my group and eternally grateful that they put their trust in me for what I believed was a well put together tour.

Everywhere we went the food was exceptional. Hearty Irish breakfast with brown bread and Irish butter to start the day, pub lunches of fresh vegetable soup or seafood chowder and perhaps a sandwich for lunch and dinners of prime Irish beef, salmon, lamb, trout, mussels, all in season, were on our menus most nights. The selection of cheese was unbelievable as were the desserts, profiter-



with her husband Damien and my two precious grandchildren, Josh & Alex, arrived to welcome their granddad home. But it was back on the bus with Harry and on the road to Galway through the Midlands, with a stop at Lockes Distillery

Waterford to visit and party with us. There was music coming out of every pub and we visited quite a few. The Quay's was packed with revellers, and we used it for our headquarters. I wimped out about 10:30 on that first night, but I'm proud of those who carried on into the wee hours.

That was day one and as the week went on, the scenery changed as did the hotels and pubs. We walked the Cliffs of Moher, we kissed the Blarney Stone, we ate the chowder in Dingle, shopped the Blarney Woolen Mills and the English Market in Cork City. We toured the cities of Cork, Dublin and Galway and the towns of Kinsale, Cashel and Killarney. We had tea, scones and the most amazing homemade blackcurrant jam at a farmhouse in Tipperary where we saw newborn lambs.

We did the Rock of Cashel, the Guinness Storehouse, St. Patrick's Cathedral and by the end of the week we had coalesced into a group of hardy Celtic Road Warriors enriched by the shared experience and enlightened by Harry on the history and culture of my Dear Old Ireland.

And yes, there was music and plenty of it, everywhere we went. Tim O'Riordan entertained us royally in Killarney and in Kinsale with his music. He sang haunting versions of Kilkelly and Beeswing along

oles and meringues and strawberry soufflé were enjoyed by all of us, before going on the town each night.

Thank you all—Paul & Kathleen, Leon, Shawn, Kevin & Terry, Maureen, Jamie & Marianne, Matt, Dena, Katie & Kimberley, Jean & Kathryn, Toni Jo & Danielle, Mary Alice & Peg, Nancy K & Maureen, Chip & Charles, Ed & Kim, and the Arizona gang, Paul, Lynn, Robert, Mary Ellen, Michael & Patricia. You were a great group and a pleasure to travel with.

Thanks to CIE Tours International, Mary Pat Flanagan and Jim Myers. Thanks to all at McNally's Traditional Irish Pub in St. Charles for allowing me to put the tour together and supporting me all the way. Thanks to family and friends for showing up along the way, it was great to see you all. But most of all, it was Harry Crofton, our CIE driver and guide, who truly made this trip memorable with his wit, wisdom and guidance. For the first few days Harry walked around with a large brown envelope under his arm and eventually he told me that they were the nametags for our group. We agreed that they were totally unnecessary and dumped them somewhere on the West coast. Harry my friend; you are a national treasure and a credit to your profession, your company and to Ireland. We will travel together again next year, Please God.

Like most holidays it was over all too quickly and it's only in retrospect that we enjoyed all of the experiences that we had shared together in that wild week but in the shared photographs on Facebook I can see that we had the "craic."

I'm already planning next year's adventure... the Livedance Tour 2012 will feature a week in Ireland and a week in Italy. We can call it the "Gaelic and Garlic Tour" or the "Pasta and Potato Tour."

Any takers?



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The New Moovers and Shakers of the Art World

While Ireland has had its fair share of sacred cows in recent times, the spiritual nature of cattle and their aesthetic beauty is now captured on canvas in a unique solo show by young Dingle artist Kelly Hood. The exhibition, which opened in The Mill Theatre in Dublin last month and running through May 27, features a striking collection of cow portraits that perfectly embody the inquisitive nature of cows, in bold black and white.

A skilled painter and artist, who specialises in uniquely Irish images and animal scenes, Kelly Hood has seen huge interest in her cow paintings from collectors and galleries. Her super-realist black and white style has won her fans worldwide, with original paintings by the Dingle artist owned by The Cranberries, Perth Racecourse in Scotland, and by Terry Wogan.

“I eat them, I wear them, and I paint them... I owe them something, don’t I?” says Kelly Hood, who has become known as the ‘Cow Painter,’ thanks to the pop-art look she brings to the local Kerry cows, in her uniquely realistic monochrome paintings.

Kelly Hood grew up in Ardmore, Ballydavid, in Dingle, and spent every summer on her grandmother’s farm, helping to milk Daisy the cow. Her West Kerry background has provided Kelly with much of her subject matter since she began painting. As well as her beloved cows, Kerry has painted a variety of human images includ-

ing men saving the hay, fishermen with their lobster pots, men bringing home the turf, fiddle playing, drinking, and old men engrossed in story-telling.

Despite the single subject and her chosen medium, there is astonishing variety in Kelly Hood’s cow collection, with her strength of technique ensuring that each new work is fresh and distinct. She consistently draws out the individual characteristics of her bovine subjects to humorous, affectionate and dramatic effect.

Having graduated from Limerick School of Art and Design in 1999, Kelly Hood also works



Gorgeous George by Kelly Hood

as a freelance graphic artist. Hood’s work can be viewed online at www.kellyhood.com. Original paintings can be commissioned directly, reflecting individual themes and design preferences.

The Big Dig - Hats Off to IAHC Volunteers

By Tom Boyle

The old plumbing shop deep in the catacombs of the Irish American Heritage Center has been transformed into much needed storage space. Their “Volunteers” have done it again! Patsy ‘Donnell and his son John, who owns Thatch Construction Company, along with men like Oliver O’Niell, Mike Geraghty and the ‘Heavy Gang’ pulled out 75 tons of earth to create the space.

Tommy Taylor from Taylor Excavating hauled the dirt away. Paul Tracey from McHugh Construction donated the concrete for the new floor. Most people will never see this room, but rest assured all will benefit from it.



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Irish American Hall of Fame Inaugural Awards Gala

Saturday, May 14th – 7:00 p.m.

**The Erin Room
Irish American Heritage Center**

Irish American Hall of Fame Inaugural Inductees

Science:	Robert Fulton
Religion:	Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Misericordia Heart of Mercy
Education:	Rev. Patrick Francis Healy, Georgetown University
Sports:	Jack Dempsey, Boxing
Business & Industry:	Henry Ford
Arts & Humanities:	Maureen O'Hara Eugene O'Neill Chief Francis O'Neill
Public Service:	President John F. Kennedy Mayor Richard J. Daley Senator George Mitchell

Scheduled to Appear

Master of Ceremonies	Mary Ann Ahern NBC 5 Chicago
	Maureen O'Hara (via video from Ireland)
	Sr. Rosemary Connelly
	Dr. Thomas Riley
	Hon. Richard A. Devine

**Special Musical Performance
Honoring Chief Francis O'Neill**

by

Liz Carroll	Sean Cleland
Jimmy Keane	Brendan McKinney

Special Speakers and Guests to be added.

Tickets	\$ 200
Table of ten	\$2,000

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For tickets contact: Irish American Heritage Center
773-282-7035 ext. 10

E-mail: info@lahof.org
Website: www.lahof.org

Hunger Spotlights Bobby Sands

This spring, the Center spotlights Bobby Sands and the 1981 hunger strikers with an evening of film, and a panel discussion remembering the events of 1981. This year marks the 30th anniversary of their deaths.

Bobby Sands was the imprisoned Irish nationalist who died in 1981, 66 days into a hunger strike. He was a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and was held in the Maze Prison just outside of Belfast. Sands was the first of 10 hunger strikers who died that year.

The evening begins with a screening of the film *Hunger*. The film won the Camera d'Or, the prize for best first feature film at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008. It recounts the final weeks of Sands and is an unflinching depiction of prison brutality, complete with ritual beatings and humiliations. *Hunger* was written by Irish playwright, Enda Walsh, and directed by Steve McQueen, who was awarded the CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in the 2011 Queen's New Years Honours List for his services to Visual Arts.

After the film, there will be a reception and a viewing of photos of the hunger strikers, curated by Frank Crowley.

At 9:15pm, join us for a panel discussion with Mike Morley, John Conroy, Dr. Hugh McElwain and Jen Sullivan.

The four panelists will add perspective on the making of the film, life in Northern Ireland in 1981, and the deeper context behind the Troubles and hunger-striking as a means of demonstration.

Morley is the host of *Irish TV Journal* on the Chicago Access Network.

Conroy is an award-winning journalist and author of *Belfast Diary: War as a Way of Life*. A Chicago journalist, Conroy was a writer for the *Chicago Tribune* when he traveled to West Belfast, Northern Ireland to live amongst the Catholic Clonard



working-class community.

His 1987 book captured the day-to-day activities of the Belfast residents and how the violence affected their lives. His street-level view of the crushing poverty, harassment by British soldiers and the fight to earn a living in a more-than-25% unemployment rate made the critically-acclaimed account a must-read for those interested in Irish history.

McElwain is a Professor of Theology at Dominican University. The 2010 Diversity Leadership Award winner at Dominican, he served as the Dean of the University's Rosary College of Arts and Sciences from 1994 to 2002. Prior to Dominican, he served as professor of systematic theology and academic dean of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Sullivan is Young Ambassador, St. Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. She will profile the Centre's programs that celebrate the shared cultural heritage of Northern Ireland.

Hunger is Saturday, May 21 from 7pm to 11pm. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

IAHC Celebrates End of 25/35 Anniversary Year with Open House

Since last summer, the Center has been celebrating the dual anniversary of 25 years in our building (1985-2010) and 35 years as an organization (1976-2011). The anniversary year officially ends with Irish Fest in July, but a special Open House is Sunday, June 5 to commemorate these milestones and to celebrate our accomplishments as a community.

The day starts with mass in the Auditorium at 1pm, followed by an Open House Celebra-



tion throughout the building featuring music, food, dance and refreshments. To mark the occasion, the Center will be decorated with old photos and mementos from our past.

The past year has been one of tremendous growth for us and one where we celebrated our anniversary by introducing new programs, concerts and events. As we build our membership and plan for the future, we will always look back on 2010-11 as the year that laid the foundation for the next 25 years.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

Realizing a Dream

The Irish American Heritage Center rolls out the red carpet on Saturday, May 14 for the Inaugural Irish American Hall of Fame Awards Gala. Some of the greatest names and accomplishments in Irish American history will be celebrated and honored at our Center this month.

The inductees are: Maureen O'Hara, Eugene O'Neill, Chief Francis O'Neill, John F. Kennedy, Mayor Richard J. Daley, Senator George Mitchell, Robert Fulton, Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Rev. Patrick Francis Healy and Jack Dempsey.

This is rarified air. It is humbling to think that our beautiful Center which was formed by the working men and women of Chicago



will now be the place that honors greatness. Yet to me, greatness has always been personified at our Center. It took greatness to conceptualize the idea 35 years ago. While our country celebrated its bicentennial, leaders of the Irish community in Chicago were meeting in basements, pubs and other locales and dared to dream about a building a place for the Irish. 25 years ago, these same visionaries bought the old Mayfair College and turned it into our Center. They dreamed of libraries, museums and art galleries. They envisioned music and dance, laughter and

children. They envisioned all this and dared to be great.

Now the Irish American Hall of Fame will take its place within our Center. Some of the greatest names in the story of the Irish in America will be honored. In reality, though, we will be honoring all of those who dared to dream so many years ago. We honor their dream by taking our Center to new heights. It'll be a night to be proud to be Irish, to be American, and extremely proud to be a member of the Irish American Heritage Center.

Tickets are \$200 and can be purchased by visiting www.irish-american.org or calling 773-282-7035. The gala is a black-tie affair and begins at 7pm.

Bob McNamara, President
Irish American Heritage Center

Brendan Voyage Returns to the Center

The film *Brendan Voyage* that was screened in 2010 returns to the IAHC for an encore performance this May.

St. Brendan the Navigator is known as patron of sailors, He was probably born near Tralee, Co. Kerry, and educated by St. Ita. He founded numerous monasteries in Ireland, the most famous was the large monastery at Clonfert, Co. Galway. Some three thousand monks lived, prayed and studied there.

Brendan also made missionary journeys to England and Scotland and became famed for his voyages, particularly a seven-year journey around the year 538, to the "Land of Promise," which he described in his epic saga *Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis*. Some modern scholars now believe the "Land of Promise" could have been North America.

In 1976, Tim Severin, an expert on exploration and author of *The Brendan Voyage* built a hide-covered leather

currach (boat) and sailed it from Ireland to North America, demonstrating the accuracy and descriptions of the places mentioned in the *Navigatio*. Several centuries after St. Brendan's time, the Norsemen used the same route in their voyages across the North Atlantic.

There will be a screening of the Tim Severin's new remastered version of *The Brendan Voyage* documentary film on Sunday, May 15 at 2pm. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Mother/Daughter Tea

Celtic Women International's Chicago Branch hosts its 2nd Annual Mother/Daughter Tea this June.

Bring your grandmother, aunt, sister or any special woman in your life for an afternoon of tea, sandwiches and live Irish music.

Each table will have its own extraordinary Irish woman as a theme, including St. Brigid, Maud Gonne, Constance Markievicz, Queen Maeve, Lady Lavery and Grace O'Malley.

The Mother/Daughter Tea is Sunday, June 12 at 1pm. Tickets are \$30 for ticket buyers and a guest and includes tea, tea sandwiches, punch and desserts.

To purchase tickets, contact Theresa Choske at 773-545-8057 or tchoske1942@sbcglobal.net.



Heritage Camp

Calling all Kids!

If you have children or grandchildren aged 7 to 15, they can attend Heritage Camp.

Camp includes two sessions; Irish Heritage Camp for five days and World Heritage Camp for five days.

Irish Heritage Camp is July 18-22 and serves as full immersion into all aspects of the Irish culture; music, dance, language, sport, art, literature, theater and food. The cost is \$150.

World Heritage Camp is July 25-29 and builds awareness for other cultures and ethnicities in Chicago, as well as sites of cultural and historical importance. The cost is \$150.

Both camps meet each day from 9am-4pm and lunch is included. Teens aged 16 to 18 can join us as counselors-in-training.

IAHC Members will receive more information on this exciting summer program in the mail in late May.

Save the Date!

Emma-Kate Tobia in Concert
Direct from Kinsale, Co. Cork

Appearing with
Cormac McCarthy
on piano
Kevin Carey on
fiddle
Friday, June 3
8pm
\$15



Singers Plan Spring Season

The Irish Heritage Singers provided beautiful music for the Palm Sunday Mass on April 17 and are planning for a busy season.

The Singers are looking for a few good men—and women! They are recruiting new members for all four sections; Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. If you love to sing and love a great social atmosphere, consider becoming an Irish Heritage Singer.

While they welcome all musicians with all levels of talent, you do not have to have previous choral experience, nor do you have to be able to read music.

The Singers rehearse every Thursday at 7:30pm in Room 304 at Center. For more information, visit the website at www.irish-american.org or call 773-285-7035, extension 34.

SAVE THE DATE!!
SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH

SHAMROCK! INTO SUMMER

BANDS, BAGPIPERS, STEPDANCERS
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Executive Director's Message

Ireland Will Be Alive in August

In what ended up being one of my favorite weekend events in my time at the Center, we had the good fortune of hosting the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil in April. With the Center's focus of preserving the best of Irish and Irish American traditions and bringing people together who care about where they come from, this event fit very neatly into our mission as an organization and created amazing scenes here all weekend long. From the star-studded concert and hopping ceilí on Friday night to the Riley School of Cincinnati playing a session on our front steps on Saturday afternoon to John O'Grady flexing in front of the fleadh banner to the Broken Pledge Chicago ceili band taking home the trophy and bringing down the house in the Erin Room to legends Jimmy Keane and Mick Moloney leading a session on couches in the first floor hallway, while four other sessions went on around the rest of the first floor, to the piper from the Templeglantine Ceili Band of Limerick, dazzling alongside their banjo player and Chicago's own Pauline Conneely in the pub on Saturday night—to the thousand rich moments in between—what an experience for anyone who attended.

A huge congratulations goes out to the Francis O'Neill Club and the Irish Music School of Chicago for producing such an event, particularly the committee of Sean Cleland, Eileen Gallagher, Linda Green, Kathy Medic, John O'Grady, Karen Schachtschneider and Jessica Zeigler. Well done all. It was a privilege for us to play host, and I would love to see this event return to the Center sometime soon.

My experience at the Fleadh has me thinking about heading to Cavan Town in August for the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann. With the

Rose of Tralee international competition on at the same time, a trip to Ireland could be well placed, particularly since it turns out that my cousin, Johnny O'Meara, will be serving as this year's Galway escort at the competition. Raised a gentleman in a good family, Johnny also has some smooth, surfer-style looks and will do the O'Mearas and McDonnells proud in Tralee, and I would expect that they will all be descending upon Kerry from Portumna, Westport, and Dublin. I also know that the City of Big Shoulders will be well represented in the competition by this year's Chicago Rose, Siobhan Carroll. She will certainly be tough for the judges to overlook.



Heritage Camp

If you have Irish American children or grandchildren, boy, do we have a treat planned for you for this summer. For our children's program, we are launching "Heritage Camp" in July, which includes two separate segments; Irish Heritage Camp for five days and World Heritage Camp for five days. Irish Heritage Camp is July 18 through July 22 and serves as full immersion into all aspects of the Irish culture; music, dance, language, sport, art, literature, theater and food. World Heritage Camp is July 25-29 and builds awareness for other cultures and ethnicities around the city of Chicago, as well as sites of cultural and historical import. Keep your eyes peeled for more details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendars now. I would expect that spots will fill up quickly.

The Western Warrior

Congratulations to boxer Henry Coyle for his recent win down at the Horseshoe Casino in Indiana. Improving to 14-2 overall, the man from Bellmullet, Co. Mayo, knocked out William Prieto in the 6th Round. Addaboy Henry—do work. "But hark, a voice like thunder spake... The West's Awake! The West's Awake!"

Eternal Rest

We lost a great volunteer and friend on April 13 with the passing of Kevin Moran. He fought like hell for the last year but ended up falling to cancer at the age of 81. His warmth, charm, sense of humor, craftsmanship, huge Mayo handshake and great enthusiasm for the Center made Kevin universally loved and admired around here. He is already sorely missed, but something tells me that Kevin will always be watching over the well-being of the Center. In Kevin's honor, the first 12x12 brick laid in the Walk of Names outside the Center will read "To One of the Center's Greatest Volunteers: Kevin Moran, We Love You." We would like to welcome all volunteers and friends who would like to sign the brick to stop by the office in the coming weeks.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. God's blessings on the Morans.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director
Irish American Heritage Center

Tickets Now on Sale for 26th Annual Irish Fest!



The 26th annual Irish American Heritage Festival is July 8, 9 and 10, 2011.

It showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities. The festival directly supports and is held on the grounds of the

Center. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

The festival features three days of music on 5 stages, featuring confirmed performers Gaelic Storm, the Tossers, Scythian, McPeake, the Makem and Spain Brothers, bluegrass legend, Tony

Rice and his band, the Tony Rice Unit, Switchback, the Mickey Finns, the Boils, the Great Whiskey Project, All Kinds, the City of Chicago Pipe Band, Chicago Celtic Pipe Band, Kennedy's Kitchen, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, the Chancey Brothers, Paddy Homan and Jimmy Keane.

The Folk Tent returns with hands-on activity with demonstrations of Irish instruments, dances and sing-alongs. Irish and American food is available throughout the weekend, and dozens of vendors and artisans will be selling Irish clothing, music and jewelry. Cultural offerings include poetry readings, language lessons, one act plays and salon concerts. Our Tea Room returns as a respite for folks looking to cool off with live harp and piano music, a proper cup of tea and sandwiches in our air conditioned Shamrock American Room.

Activities and contests include The Hooley Hook-Up, a match-making event with live music, matchmaking and dancing, the Mashed Potato Eating Contest and the Sham-ROCK Stars Singing Contest.



To purchase advance sale tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or purchase online at www.irishfestchicago.com.

Tickets: \$14 per day; \$8 in advance until the end of day on July 7; seniors \$7, and children 12 and under are free when accompanied by a paid adult.

Hours: Fri., 6pm-midnight; Sat., noon-midnight; Sun., noon-11 p.m.



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Susan McCann

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 or pick up an order form at the IAHC



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 Bluegrass Legend*
**THE TOSSERS TONY RICE
 McPEAKE**

www.irishfestchicago.com

July 8, 9 & 10

Help Us Grow...

Interested in becoming more involved at the IAHC, but don't know where to start? We're looking for enthusiastic members to join our Membership Committee.

It's a great way to meet new people, help the Center grow and bring more people into our community. Our next meeting is Saturday, May 21 at 10am. We seek volunteers who can help to

expand our membership programs, base and benefits. For more information, contact Leslie Singel at lsingel@irishahc.org or (773) 282-7035 ext 10.



CIE TOURS International

**Irish American Heritage Center Presents:
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PRICE INCLUDES:

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Dinner and evening entertainment at Taylor's Three Rock.	

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May 2011

May 4	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
May 5	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
May 6	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
May 14	Irish American Hall of Fame Dinner	Erin Room	7pm
May 15	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
	<i>Brendan Voyage</i> Film	Room 306/7	2pm
May 17	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Fifth Province	7:30pm
May 20	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
May 21	<i>Hunger</i>	Auditorium/Art Gallery	7pm
May 22	Shamrock American Club May Crowning	Fifth Province	10am
May 27	In Love With The Dance	Auditorium	7:30pm
May 29	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
May 30	Memorial Day	Closed	

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues.-Sat.	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen	12:30pm-2pm
Tues.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Celtic Art Class	Room 304	7-9pm
	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Am Rm	6:30-8:30pm
Wed.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
	Sean-nós Dancing	Room 310	7pm
Thurs.	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
	<i>Book of Kells: Its History and Art</i>	Room 304	7pm
	Irish Social Dancing	Room 111	7:30pm
Fri.	Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac. & Dance	Room 111	8pm
Sat.	Sean-nós Dancing	Room 111	4:15pm



the fifth province

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All shows start after 9 p.m.

MAY 2011

Fri, 5/6	Ceili Mor
Sat, 5/7	Joe Cullen and Kathleen Bremer
Fri, 5/13	John Devlin
Sat, 5/14	Barry Fagan's Band
Fri, 5/20	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 5/21	The Dooley Brothers
Fri, 5/27	In Spite of Ourselves
Sat, 5/28	Joe McShane



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3-year membership
no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

5-year membership
no annual dues

\$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King

25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership without annual dues



Question about Membership?

Change of address? Email us at membership@irishahc.org with your membership questions.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways, follow the IAHC on



Facebook and Twitter



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Piping It In

Jack Baker



Another recording I have been anxiously awaiting is Kathleen Keane’s *Where the Wind Meets the Water* and I finally got it! What a joy! Anyone who has

Life is full of ups and downs, and the past month has been no different. We were all saddened to lose Kay Dietz on March 26th, when she lost her battle with lung cancer. Kay was always the life of the party, a friendly happy lady who made sure everyone was pulled into the festivities. She was also mother of one of my closest friends, Mike Dietz. She will be missed, but she will always be remembered.

A wonderful bright spot was the debut at the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil of Chris and Mary Ann Bain’s new twins, Ronan & Deirdre. Beautiful and tiny, they were brought round to meet everyone and everyone immediately fell in love with them. Jackie Moran pointed out that little Deirdre was nodding her head in time to the music, so it seems that the family musical genius has been passed on to another generation. What a blessing!

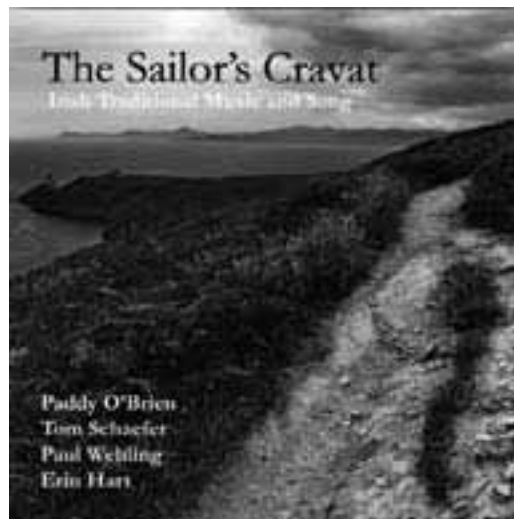
This has been a great month for traditional music as I sit here looking at six new releases that you will want to hear. First off, a CD that I’ve been anxiously awaiting since Paddy O’Brien sent me a rough cut promo a couple of months back. I hinted at it in previous columns, but it’s here now and well worth the wait. *The Sailor’s Cravat* features Paddy O’Brien’s incomparable button accordion, Tom Schaefer on fiddle, Paul Wehling on bouzouki, and the lovely vocals of Erin Hart. This CD contains some of the best stuff Paddy’s ever done, and we’re talking about an already pretty impressive body of work. The recording comes to us from New Folk Records, a label that is really making its mark in traditional music circles. While playing it in the store, I’ve had nothing but positive comments from customers, most of whom bought it. That’s always a good sign for me. I expected to hear great music from Paddy, and wasn’t disappointed, but the delightful songs sung by Erin Hart were a wonderful surprise. Sorry to say I wasn’t familiar with her work before but now—I’ll certainly keep her on my radar. This girl can sing. Together the group functions like a well oiled machine to deliver the best kind of traditional music, the kind that picks you up, physically and emotionally, and carries you along with it.

had the pleasure to sit and listen to Kathleen perform. She knows what an accomplished musician she is. Her CD captures all the intensity of her performance and all the feeling that she has for her music. She is the music and the music is her. Okay, words are failing me here a bit. There are musicians to whom the music isn’t just something they play, but instead the music is a part of them. It’s what they are, not just what they do. Kathleen Keane’s one of those. Her fiddle, tinwhistle and vocals are simply outstanding. Added to this, she is surrounded by some of the finest trad musicians in the industry, Dennis Cahill, guitar, James Conway, harmonica, William Coulter, guitar, Jimmy Moore, bass, bouzouki and guitar and Jackie Moran, the king of the bodhran. The tunes are a mix of traditional and original, that’s right, she also writes lovely music! She also takes one of the iconic cheesy songs, “When Irish Eyes are Smiling,” and, with her original arrangement, turns it into a lovely ballad. I love it! The CD finishes with a recording of her Granddad playing his accordion, sweet, lovely, fun... Kathleen. She is what she is and that’s one of the best.

Need to get the Scottish oar in the water here and there’s no one better to do the job than Jim Malcolm. Accomplished Scottish solo singer Jim Malcolm has nine CDs to his credit with the release of *Sparkling Flash*, his latest, not to mention all the CDs he did with Old Blind Dogs when he was the band’s vocalist. I have rhapsodized on Jim’s honey-velvet voice in the past and that quality is still there. Nice to see more of his original song writing skills being highlighted in this CD. Jim has a way with words, using his wit and intellect to weave some heartfelt lyrics in the title song and a soon to be classic bit of humor in his piece called “American Accent.” Did I mention that his guitar work and harmonica are beyond reproach? Well, they are. Jim loves to do house concerts and is in his glory with a small intimate setting. If you get a chance to see him, don’t pass it up, you will love this man and his great voice. On the new CD we also get to hear the vocal

talents of his wife, Susie and his daughter, Beth. One talented family, for sure.

Speaking of great voices, one dropped by the store the other day to bring his newest CD in for me to listen to. It was Andrew Calhoun, one of the most original voices I’ve ever heard, and one of the most original wits it’s ever been my pleasure to converse with. He has made a living cranking out the most outstanding collections of songs you can imagine. If you haven’t heard his voice, don’t wait for me to try and describe it, I don’t have the words. Is it deep and rich? You betcha. Is it



smooth and harmonious? Yeah that too. Does this guy know his way around a folk song? Yeah, like damn few others. His new CD, *Grapevine* winds its way thru the folk tradition tying together songs from a lot of different places and doing them in a way that will cause them to become your favorite versions in future. You’ve got to hear this one; it’s too good to pass up.

Andrew also brought the newest release from

Kate MacLeod and Kat Eggleston, called *Lost and Found*. Their second release together, it gives these two fantastic musicians, Kat on guitar and Kate on fiddle, a chance to blend their vocal talents, creating a truly lovely experience. I’ve often said that I’d pay good money to hear Kat read the phone book, well she’s one-upped herself by teaming with Kate MacLeod. Another new release from Waterbug Records, this CD shows us that new and innovative folk music is still being performed. The folk tradition is far from dead!

Lastly a quick mention of a really good deal from New Folk Records, their new *Sampler II*. Twenty tracks to give you a taste of twenty artists, a total running time of 74:16 minutes of fine music for a fair price. Here’s a chance to expand your horizons and hear some of the artists that this innovative label has found. A real deal!

Finally, at the Fleadh the other day where I was selling CDs, four ladies came up to the booth and bought a CD that was an independent production by a traditional artist. They then stood there discussing how they were going to burn copies for each other and their friends! Come on people! Traditional artists sure as hell don’t get rich on the sales of their CDs, and this crap just makes it harder for them to keep recording their music. Support traditional music and traditional artists. Burning is stealing. At the Fleadh for crying out loud, they should know better. Now I will put my soapbox away till next month.

Thanks to all of you who read my stuff and give me your feedback. I probably won’t get any better at writing but it’s nice to know you’re reading. Thanks also to my wife Gayle who proofreads, retypes and generally keeps me in line. Contact me at pipingitin@comcast.net or call the store at 630-834-8108. Slainté.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Harvesting the Faith in Ireland

I'm not sure if I'll ever get to Ireland. The Spirit is willing but the purse is weak.

But just as unexpected, a vital part of Ireland came to me just a few Sundays ago.

While attending services at Crosspoint Church just outside Fox Lake, IL, I learned our regular pastor was yielding the podium to the chief administrator of the Irish Bible Institute. It turns out our church partners with IBI in its mission to spread the Christian faith throughout Ireland.

Seeing as St. Patrick still needs to have his work converting Ireland completed, it makes sense that IBI is one of the "missionary organizations" that my church currently supports.

If that term conjures up thoughts of dusty huts or jungle journeys, it was clear this guest speaker would offer up something substantially different from the standard fare of adventures dodging cannibals in the Pacific Rim, or the infamous annual visit of a missionary family to my old western suburb's Catholic church, where they spoke of the handiness of tropical leaves in a culture without toilet paper.

Stepping up to the podium was an Irish man who looked uncannily like the famous British actor Sir Anthony Hopkins and with something of his on-screen manner, too. One should note that would be from roles playing soft-spoken academics and theologians like C.S. Lewis rather than say, Hannibal Lecter, speaking of cannibals.

Dressed in a wool sport coat and pullover sweater, Irish Bible Institute President (or Principal) Jacob Reynolds is a witty and urbane man with a kind heart whose unusual journey took him from the farm fields outside Dublin to higher education in Canada, then to the pulpit and back to Ireland to spread a faith that transformed his life.

a teenage boy, he realized that heading home to a big family to lick his wounds would not do. "There'd be all kinds of questions to be answered," he said with a wry smile as the family-rich church audience nodded in agreement.

His sanctuary was to spend the evening in

"I got the faith 30 years ago when I just 18," said Reynolds. He was on his way to a blind date at the movies and got stood up. Facing this ultimate rejection, at least for

for Ireland, where civilization may not be remote but the missionary need for encouraging, sharing and spreading a vital and personal faith is near at hand.

Students at IBI receive more than Bachelors or Masters degrees from Reynolds, they receive a focus on making a practical difference in individual church communities and across Ireland. "It is a misnomer to think that we don't have much to offer God or His kingdom. If our desire is to serve the living God, then everything we bring to the work of the kingdom is of God Himself," said Reynolds.

He draws back to his boyhood farm days in the turnip fields outside Dublin for a practical example of how one puts faith in action. Typically he and his bigger brothers, Paddy and Damien, would be on hands and knees in muddy, rainy or hot weather striving to "end up the drill," get to the end of a long row of turnips to be harvested. "It was a horrible job!" he said with heartfelt conviction.

One day, as he was nearing the end of the row, he noticed his basket of turnips growing as miraculously as a basket of limitless loaves and fishes grew on the shore of a far away sea two thousand years ago. It turns out two brothers who could just as soon start a fight or lord over a little brother had each been silently adding a turnip or two to Jacob's all-fours struggle up the muddy row.

His load was lightened and easier to bear, knowing he wasn't alone. Jacob Reynolds, who now has his own grown family and wife, along with his college community family, preaches that lesson as a challenge for individual believers to make a difference in the smallest, and largest of ways.

At a time when resources are extremely limited in Ireland and elsewhere, Reynolds offers a perspective of encouragement that giving what little we have is often more than enough. After all in the Gospel, one little boy's loaves and fishes, not unlike another little boy's farm harvest, ultimately fed thousands.

"It reminds us that Christ is sufficient and that he can accomplish extraordinary things from meager resources," Reynolds pointed out. "He is teaching His disciples that He is capable of meeting their needs."

IrishRoverJim@aol.com



Reynolds congratulates an IBI grad in Dublin.

a Dublin coffee shop, but there he encountered a group of Christians that led him to consider a new type of family, and also what there is in life that truly gives lasting meaning outside of surface acceptance or success. He knew he needed a personal relationship with God, and the growing realization of Jesus as a personal savior brought Reynolds to say a simple prayer: "I don't believe you the way I should. Help me to believe!"

The help came, and Reynolds moved to Canada to attend a Bible college. There he met his future wife and also began a journey back home. "The normal way for many who leave Ireland for North America is to stay there. I felt I had to spread what I learned back home."

His vision became one of training leaders

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the benefits of the National Health Service, and other colonial attachments. Some of us relate to our fellow Irishmen across the border

link between the men of Scotland and the English. The after effect of the drama was less satisfying once you began to deconstruct the caricatures depicted onstage.

When I went to share some of my thinking with my neighbour, she quickly silenced me with “Don’t tell me. Don’t break the illusion.” Her response left me wondering if we simply choose some stereotypes as a means of legitimizing our political viewpoints. In some ways this is where one’s identity as an immigrant can be romanticized, and idealized. Once away from home, we begin to create images of the home country that will always fail to meet the reality test. We need art to remind us of how complex and contradictory our natures really are. We are all more than the sum of our national parodies.

The complexity of the Irish psyche is intriguing, especially if you are Irish. Some of us grate against the stereotype of the Irish drunken piss artist, whose sole redeeming virtue is being good craic, the jovialness of Irish wit. Some of us, including myself, lapse into this persona simply because the need to define the complexity of being Irish is either beyond the other drunk we’re talking to, or it requires too much effort to try and define what appears to be indefinable.

I remember having some friends from Derry visit me in Chicago. It was their first time in the U.S, and the accent was thick as hard cheese. Being from the north, neither of them had what most Americans perceive as the traditional Irish accent. This became apparent whenever we would go to the pubs. When quizzed as to their origins, Scotland? Maybe Australia? Even England got a mention. They would make their retreat to what is popularly known as Irish. With a smile on their faces, and pint in their hand they would in unison, with their best lilt, sing out ‘lucky charms!’ Suddenly, it would become apparent to the listener, they were indeed from the green isle, as illustrated on the box.

While stereotypes are often used to reduce us to being two dimensional, and, sometimes, used to justify racism and bigotry, they often fall short of what makes us a human being. Each nationality has characteristics that are part of the national psyche. When Irish people get together in a foreign land they search for a common language, maybe not as sinister as Freemasons giving each other the secret handshake, but we each need a way to communicate a sense of common heritage, and this is good. We, like other immigrants, want to feel a connection to what we feel is a deep part of ourselves. Sometimes what drives us towards this search for identity is a desire to understand what makes us who we are.

At one point I thought this was a peculiarly Irish American trait, but on reflection, I realized that even in Ireland, especially in the north, there always was a need to try and discover a greater sense of identity. As a part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland has a foot in both the Anglo, and Irish world. Our Irish sensibility is tempered with affection for English football teams,

as almost half brothers.

As part of my own journey, I’m beginning to realize how intangible our sense of identity really is. It becomes even more complicated when one adopts another country as a place of residence. In the six years I’ve lived in the United States I’ve enjoyed the diversity of other ethnicities. I enjoy the daily negotiations as to whether I call it toma-to, or tomato, whether I spell certain words with their redundant ‘u’ vowel, or take the easy way out and go with the flow. Will it be chips or fries? When I fill up, will it be gas or petrol? Fuel, by any other name would still be as pricey, and in demand.

Depending on our life experiences, we are the sum of what happens to us. It is inevitable that if we’ve never left one place, its stamp on us is almost indelible. However, the more we move around, become exposed to others on our cyber travels, the more we lose and gain what makes us, us. Coming from Northern Ireland, where one’s identity is usually defined in opposition to the other, it’s nice to see that the other’s culture is simply a different way of seeing things. Living in a multi-cultural environment has taught me a lot of valuable lessons. Cultural identity is a large part of who we are. It’s no better or worse than someone else’s culture, simply different. Having an assortment of cultures on your doorstep is an invitation to learn, share and grow.

I was excited to attend a showing of Scotland’s National Theatre *Black Watch*. The play has had stunning reviews, having debuted at Edinburgh’s prestigious Fringe Festival. The play centers on a Scottish regiment of the British during its war in Afghanistan, and Iraq. The theatricality of the piece is glorious with choreography, and singing. Visually the drama embraces the sights and sounds of war. When the play ended the audience gave a standing ovation. But as people around me got to their feet, I felt grounded to the floor.

Despite the playwright wanting to win unqualified sympathy for the young men of this Scottish regiment, I could not stop my mind from thinking it was much too easy. The author exploited every cliché possible when it comes to war, class differences between officers and privates, criticism of the futility of such wars, while glossing over the

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Profiles, one of Chicago’s longest-running storefront theatres, presents its 23rd season of new and challenging works, including the Midwest premiere of the Broadway hit *A Behanding in Spokane* by Martin McDonagh; the Midwest premiere of Neil LaBute’s controversial 2010 play *The Break of Noon* revised exclusively for Profiles Theatre; the Midwest premiere of the scathing Off-Broadway hit *Bachelorette* by Leslye Headland; and the world premiere of Deirdre O’Connor’s latest play, *Assisted Living*.

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 Run: November 10 - December 18, 2011
Bachelorette
 By Leslye Headland
 Midwest Premiere
 Previews: January 13 - 18, 2012
 Run: January 19 - March 4, 2012
The Break Of Noon
 Midwest Premiere
 By Neil LaBute
 Previews March 30 - April 4, 2012
 Runs April 5 - May 20, 2012
 For more information about Profiles Theatre and its 23rd Season, visit www.profilestheatre.org.

Online Only This Month

Due to the large quantity of articles this month and the lack of extra space, the Horoscopes column will be online only.

It will be back next month for your reading pleasure!

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



TWO NEWS ITEMS reveal the continuing plight of the British-Occupied Irish: 1) Ex-IRA-man Gerry McGeough was sentenced to 20 years to serve two consecutive years for combat against a British soldier 30 years ago in which both suffered gunshot wounds. The Brit wasn’t charged. 2) The British gov’t **VERBALLY APOLOGIZED** for murdering, 35 years ago, 12-year-old Majella O’Hare walking home from Confession. The British soldier who shot her (in the back) was always known, but he hasn’t been prosecuted and won’t be. As in nearly all cases of British murders, and especially massacres of Irish non-combatants, only apologies ensue, and only after decades of “spin” and slandering of the victims. The uniformed murderers prove immune and are awarded medals and CBEs if their murder toll is adequate. Meanwhile, IRA-men are still tortured in Maghaberry.

THE JUDICIAL TRAVESTIES inflicted upon McGeough/O’Hare illustrates the GFA’s evil consequences

of selling-out the Six-Counties to Britain. McGeough’s honorable defense of his country is criminalized while the daylight murder of a 12-year-old girl is immunized for thirty-five years and then “resolved” with a verbal “apology.” Did Soviet or Nazi courts ever produce worse than the O’Hare/McGeough travesties? The Crown gov’t just cannot help being its criminal self. All humans, except the utterly cowed, will risk all to be rid of it.

THE SELL-OUT of the Six Counties was a criminal operation long before the British gov’t (through MI5 and Fr. Alex Reid of Belfast’s Clonard monastery) subverted Gerry Adams. The decades of British gov’t murders of Catholic men, women and children, mostly through army- and spook-led Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) psychopaths, have proven victorious. (Honorable Britons like Capt. Fred Holroyd and Chief Constable John Stalker paid horrible prices for refusing to participate in mass murders.) The terrorism was greater than

many could tolerate. An honorable Derry woman of my acquaintance now accepts British rule, having finally been cowed by the murder threats of British soldiers who tore her house apart on a regular basis for years with complete impunity.

DAVID ERVINE, the UVF leader with the policy of randomly murdering Catholics to terrorize survivors into accepting British rule suggested, on record, that his policy was decisive. But during his triumphant visit to Washington in 1994, he learned it wasn’t quite that decisive. He recorded his chagrin when the head of Washington’s Britain desk informed him that the US had won “Ulster” (the uninformed refer to the Six Counties as “Ulster”) for Britain only to **FREE UP THE BRITISH ARMY FOR THE WARS BEING PLANNED AGAINST ISLAM**. Thus, the Adams/McGuinness/Reid sell-out that led to the O’Hare/McGeough travesties, was part of **EVEN GREATER EVILS PLANNED BY MONSTERS IN THE U.S./U.K. GOV’TS**.

THE OMAGH ATROCITY’S part in Neo-Con plans is now clear. Though a key murderer of Catholics had been brought triumphantly to Washington in 1994, the sell-out still needed a major push, thus, “Omagh; The Bomb to End All Bombs” was planned (and later “spun”). That is why MI5, having subverted Chicago FBI agent Patrick “Ed” Buckley years earlier, brought him to Ireland. And Islam is why Buckley’s US bosses and his bosses’ bosses OK’d his MI5/Omagh mission. It proved easier for MI5/FBI to perpetrate Omagh than to blame it on the IRA. Consider their follow-up crimes: “Disappear” Paddy Dixon who had supplied the bomb car for MI5; “dis-

appear” the satellite tracking record of that car; “disappear” the phoned-in bomb warnings and the log book into which they were transcribed; get the news media to cover up the absence of RUC injuries and divert attention from the disappeared evidence while demonizing the IRA enough to win the impending GFA referendum. One conjectures: Did the Crown award George Crosses to all Omagh RUC officers FOR “disappearing” the warning tape and log book or **DESPITE** that criminal concealment. The stench of that award forced the Crown to later give George Crosses to all RUC.

FBI AGENT BUCKLEY was deployed to Ireland by MI5 after perpetrating crimes for them in Chicago. Those crimes were repeated in Omagh. The day that the Langert family were murdered, the local police named David Biro as their sole suspect (his murder weapon was later identified as FBI agent Lewis’ 357 Magnum). The following day Buckley arrived, usurped control of the investigation, and prohibited the police from pursuing the actual murderer and sent them on nationwide wild goose chases. He got supine “reporter” (Carol Marin) to announce on network TV “IRA involvement,” thus demonizing it. His subordinates soon framed me so cunningly for that atrocity that I was doomed, but Biro blabbed through his FBI cover into Life Without Parole. He remains in Pontiac prison. Prior to news of that atrocity I’d never even heard of anyone involved. Only after Buckley framed and incarcerated Mary (my wife), Frank O’Neill, Tony McCormick, and me on new false charges did someone (the Winnetka police?) contact our lawyers. At the Winnetka police HQ, they photo-

copied signed murder investigation reports that had framed me. Were we poor, we’d have gone straight from jail to trial to prison, but we barely bonded out, and by hiring expensive, connected attorneys we managed to get Discovery Documents, including the evidentiary audiotape that we proved in federal court was a criminal fabrication. We four walked free, but so did the MI5/FBI criminals, to their next mission, in Ireland. That mission was Omagh, and once accomplished the FBI departed Ireland. Within hours of that blast, MI5 eMailed MI5/FBI agent and life-long criminal (according to a NY State police affidavit) David Rupert. It summoned him to MI5’s HQ immediately via Belfast airport where plane tickets awaited him and his wife; it ordered him to speak to nobody, especially to gardai. Rupert/MI5 eMail correspondence is crucial.

THE PATTERN EMERGES. The immunized crimes were all prelude to larger US/UK crimes. The immunized atrocities in Ireland were all either acts of mass terrorism that led to the GFA sell-out to Britain, or were Obstructions of Justice regarding those crimes. Immunized atrocities include Dublin/Monaghan bombing (33 dead, 300 maimed), Bloody Sunday (14 dead, 16 wounded), McGurk’s Pub bombing (15 dead, 17 maimed), Omagh (29 dead, etc.) The most effective terrorism was the decades-long UVF murders of Catholics (1000?). All perpetrators are identified.

THE PATTERN that exposes the GFA’s US/UK criminal basis is the impunity: U.S. impunity to Buckley for his covering for murderer Biro while disinforming America of “IRA involvement;” his false imprisonments, perjuries, and fabrications of evidence, his involvement with Rupert in Omagh, etc., are matched by the RUC’s “disappearance” of Omagh’s perpetrators and crucial evidence, and the Crown’s “highest” awards to the perpetrators of the worst atrocities. To think; the White House’s “Britain desk” indicates that all of these crimes, including the GFA, served to free up British forces for use against Islam. The McGeough/O’Hare travesties, the GFA and Omagh and other atrocities and all consequent obstructions of justice are part of US/UK State terrorism on a global scale. If the U.S. ever abandons its plans of world conquest and restores the Republic and its Rule of Law, it will prosecute criminals instead of immunizing them as above. A law-abiding USA. May we live to see the day! The key: discover the pattern of immunized atrocities and corollary crimes.

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Memorial Day

Major Donald J. Reilly USMC

Two years ago, I published a letter from my life-long friend, Jim Mulroy, while he was in Viet Nam. It was dated December 10, 1965. He wrote... “Yesterday we started operation “Harvest Moon,” and its a big one. Three battalions of Marines and a regiment of South Vietnamese troops right into the known stronghold of the hardcore (N. Vietnamese) Viet Cong. The location is the Phauc Valley between Da Nang and Chu-Lai. I flew ten hours straight yesterday along with 40 helicopter crews getting those people in there... They (the VC) have the best automatic weapons... Two USMC helicopters were shot out of the sky December 9th.”

After Operation Harvest Moon, Jim wrote me another letter about his best friend Major Don Reilly. I recall that he said, “He was blown out of the sky

right along side of me.” After I had given Jim all of the letters he had written to me from Viet Nam to read, there was one letter he never returned, and it was about the day Major Reilly got killed. I checked it out on the internet, and the story is there.

Operation Harvest Moon

This is a list of the Marines and Corpsman who died that day or as a result of that action. Keep them in your prayers.

D-Day+1 (09 dec 65), Thursday

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S/Sgt John B. Cordova, Houston, TX
HM1 Richard L. Croxen, Westminster, CA
Captain George C. Drake, Kirkland, WA
Pvt. Robert E Emery, Granite City, IL

The helicopter pilot killed while assisting Lima:

Major Donald J. Reilly, St. Louis, MO

“By the time the USMC Air Wing had entered the fight and there were also the sounds of nearby 250 lb. bombs capping off.”

“The Corpsman worked masterfully even though they had lost one of their own to the battle.”

“HM1 Richard ‘Doc’ Croxen, along with PFC John Miller, had been wounded by the same mortar round that got me. John Miller made it, Doc Croxen didn’t.”

“Our Senior Corpsman in an attempt to calm me down, asked me to look after a Lance Corporal who was badly wounded. The Doc told me that this guy probably wouldn’t make it, but to do what I could to make him comfortable.”


“In the meantime, the rescue choppers were on their way,

town... quite a feat for a woman of that era. But then, she needed the work. She’d married a French Canadian named Desire Letourneau, but the blackguard ran off and left her alone to raise five children. A strong, proud woman, Ellen kept her married name for the kids’ sake and vowed to herself that never, even through lean times, would her children go hungry. Through selfless decades of hard work and loving devotion to her family, Nana brought back dignity and nobility to the Letourneau name, and her children and grandchildren would wear it proudly forevermore.

By the time I came along Nana was in her late eighties, and all her children had married and moved away except for my Uncle George, whom everyone called “Buddy,” and his sister, my Aunt Marge, or “Mudgie” as she was affectionately known. Mudge and Bud and Nana



Continued on Page 30



MAJOR DONALD J. REILLY USMC
NAVY CROSS CITATION
9 DEC 1965

“For extraordinary heroism as a Helicopter Pilot in Marine Observation Squadron Two in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 December 1965. With his squadron engaged in air support operations for Task Force Delta in Quang Tin Province, Major Reilly was designated as Tactical Aircraft Coordinator (Airborne). Reporting on station about 1800, he immediately answered an emergency request for support from Lima Company 3rd Battalion 3rd Regiment, a Marine Rifle Company which was part of a mobile alert force that had been helicopter-lifted into a hostile area where it was heavily engaged by the Viet Cong using mortars, automatic weapons, and small arms. Although exposed to hostile rifle and machine-gun fire, he, with selfless determination and skill, fearlessly delivered devastating fire from low altitudes upon the Viet Cong who were encircling the company. Later, in response to a request for evacuation of eleven of the company wounded, he prepared to land. In darkness and under a 1200 foot over cast with three miles visibility he arranged for the company to guide him on the final approach with a flashlight. Directing his wingman to remain aloft and assist only if he were successful, he turned off aircraft lights and resolutely commenced his approach. Although encountering intense small-arms fire, he pressed on with determination and while slowing for landing, received a severe bullet wound. His copilot was unable to take over in time and the aircraft crashed on landing in the friendly zone. No further evacuations could be attempted due to enemy resistance until several hours later that night and by that time Major Reilly had succumbed to his grievous wounds. His self sacrificing action in the face of overwhelming odds sustained and enhanced the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the cause of freedom.”

but the VC had an ace up their sleeve for them as well. As the first Med-Evac chopper came in to rescue the more serious of our wounded, the pilot was shot at close range while attempting to land.”

“CPL Joe Hennebery a red headed Irishman from Boston and a Scout Sgt attached to the FO team, were both badly burned from the chopper fuel, as they rescued the downed chopper crew. They were both awarded Silver Stars for their actions.”

“The pilot, Major Donald J. Reilly died from bullet wounds and was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions.”

“After Major Reilly’s chopper was shot down they decided to wait til well into the night before trying to evacuate the wounded, this unfortunate delay most likely contributed to the loss of some of our more serious wounded.”

To the best of my memory about that letter, my friend, Captain James Patrick Mulroy, was flying right next to Major Donald Reilly’s chopper when he was hit.

Memorial Day

The bugle echoes shrill and sweet
But not of war it sings to-day.
The road is rhythmic with the feet
Of men-at-arms who come to pray.

The roses blossom white and red
On tombs where weary soldiers lie;
Flags wave above the honored dead
And martial music cleaves the sky.

Above their wreath-strewn graves
we kneel,
They kept the faith and fought the fight.
Through flying lead and crimson steel
They plunged for Freedom and the Right.

May we, their grateful children, learn
Their strength, who lie beneath this sod,
Who went through fire and death to earn
At last the accolade of God.

In shining rank on rank arrayed
They march, the legions of the Lord;
He is their Captain unafraid,
The Prince of Peace...
Who brought a sword.

— Joyce Kilmer

“The Marine Corps core values—Honor, Courage, and Commitment—are the defining qualities of a Marine. They are mutually reinforcing and dependent, if one quality is strong, it supports the others; if one is weak, the others suffer. Honor is a well-developed sense of right and wrong. We boil it down to the simple expression that ‘Marines do not lie, cheat, or steal. Marines treat all people with dignity and respect.’”

“Courage, particularly moral courage, is the willingness to do the right thing, no matter the personal cost or sacrifice. It is the foundation and source of physical courage, which is more often associated with military heroism. Finally, Commitment is selfless devotion to our faith, the Marine Corps, our fellow Marines, and our family and friends. Easy to remember, more challenging to live by, these are the standards to which all Marines are held.”

Semper Fidelis



Meehall Recalls

By Michael Carroll



Chapter One

MEEHALL: Memories of a South Side Lad

Nana’s Bell

They say everybody has a story to tell. Anyone of Irish descent can tell you that we Irish and Irish-Americans, from the heights of James Joyce all the way down to the lowliest Dublin clerk scribbling in his journal late at night, sometimes feel the urge to do “a bit of the writing,” and I’m no exception. Part (or most) of the reason all writers write, is to preserve the fleeting moments of our lives: what we saw, how we felt, who we were. In particular, we feel the need to document our earliest childhood memories. In this and in the following short stories, I have attempted to do just that.

One particular memory of mine always surfaces at the sight of Nana’s Bell, which rests proudly in our display cabinet at home: an ordinary

brass handbell with a simple cross on top serving as a handle. Made in India in the 1930s or 1940s, it was purchased there during the war by my Uncle George, a Navy Air Force crewman. He brought the bell back home for his mother, my great-grandmother Ellen K. Letourneau, whom everyone called “Nana.” After emigrating in the 1890s Nana found herself a resident of the village of Mount Greenwood, before it joined with Chicago. She even served as the first female postmaster of the

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



The bad breath of Santa Claus has been known to trigger cynicism in youth.

Most folks look back at that encounter as the dawn of disillusionment. Others may not reach that stage of enlightenment until much later in life. And some poor saps still think everything is on the square.

But most will agree with the old adage: “There are only two things that are on the up and up, Mother’s Day and mountain climbing, and we’re not too sure about Mother’s

Day.”

When my kids were four years old and asked me to take them to see “He-Man” live at a New York City toy store I couldn’t bring myself to tell them, “He-Man is not real boys. It’s just a cartoon.”

And it wasn’t even a very good cartoon. It was no *Heckle and Jeckle*, and certainly couldn’t touch anything by the inimitable *Bugs Bunny*. But the boys were glued to the tube every Saturday morning following the adventures of *He-Man and the Masters of The Universe*.

He-Man was a world unto itself with villains and strange animals and lots of evil to conquer in their boring universe. But the Houli brothers thought it was awesome. They begged Santa Claus to bring them the new toy “Castle Grayskull,” a replica of He-Man’s domicile.

Toy stores wanted ninety bucks for the stupid plastic castle, and it would probably be smashed to pieces

before I finished assembling it.

Santa got them wooden building blocks instead and left a note on Christmas Eve that said, “Build your own castle, boys!”

And then one morning my son Billy grabbed me and said, “Dad, He-Man is coming to New York!”

Sure enough the TV announcer was shouting, “Kids, get mom and dad to take you to meet He-Man and She-Ra next Saturday morning on the Upper East Side!”

I muttered at the TV, “You bastards!”

So there I was, early one Saturday morning in Manhattan after taking two busses to get there, and standing in line with about six hundred other thrilled parents as we waited outside for the toy store to open, and every kid would get a chance to meet He-Man.

Sophisticated Manhattan couples walking by were perplexed at the throngs and asked us what all the commotion was all about.

“It’s He-Man, he’s supposed to make a personal appearance at Kid World this morning.”

The anorexic woman furrowed her plucked brow, “What’s He-Man?”

Not your boyfriend.

They didn’t get it and probably never would as they continued on their way, late for their brunch at the Planned Parenthood fundraiser.

Cop cars showed up because of the crowds and a guy came out of the store and assured us that everyone would get a chance to see He-Man. Numbers were issued and only fifty people at a time could enter the store.

Of course we were at the end of the line and my boys were getting antsy. I wanted to make sure we wouldn’t be required to buy anything in order to shake He-Man’s paw, but didn’t know who to ask. And then we saw some of the first group of kids coming back down the block after their audience with He-Man.

Uh oh, one kid was crying.

His parents looked peeved and my son Paddy grabbed the kid, “Didja see him? Didja see He-Man?”

The kid shrieked through his tears, “It’s just a guy in a costume!”

My boys looked stunned. The line was moving faster now and after waiting this, long we weren’t about to bail. I sensed a “teachable moment” in the offing and chuckled inwardly.

We finally reached the front of the store and we could see in the window and yes, there was He-Man, a guy in a crumby costume, with a blonde wig. I thought maybe they would have hired a guy who was a body builder or a Hulk Hogan clone, but this was just some nerd wearing a body suit with flesh colored fake muscles. He looked ridiculous and most of the kids weren’t buying it.

Oh sure, there was the usual crowd of butt-kissing wimps who gamely shouted out He-Man’s chant, “By the power of Grayskull!” ...but my guys just stared dumbly at this abomination.

Billy and Paddy were pissed, and refused to even go in the store. They’d seen enough and said, “Let’s go home.”

But I opened the door of the store and shouted at the top of my lungs, “Rip-Off! Rip-Off! Rip-Off!”

“What’s a rip-off, dad?”

Now they know.

Twenty-six years later many Americans are experiencing that same feeling with our government. They believed in something that turned out to be just an empty suit. Since they’re adults, they’re reticent to admit they’ve been snookered.

Like those squishy kids who kept chanting “By the Power of Grayskull!” that day in Manhattan, their pride won’t let them admit their naiveté. But they shouldn’t feel bad.

After all, it’s just part of growing up.

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Honoring Mothers, Recognizing Christ in Our Neighbors in Need

Happy Easter! And Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and your families!

It is very appropriate that during this Easter Season we honor our beloved mothers who gave us life, love and faith—while continuing with the Church our 50-day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and his gift to us of eternal life!

The Gospel on this Mother's Day tells us that shortly after he rose from the dead, Jesus appears to some of his grief-stricken, bewildered disciples on the road to Emmaus. They do not recognize him. He walks with them, explains to them what refers to Him in all the Scriptures—and they invite him to sit down to supper with them.

During the meal, Jesus, still a stranger to them, took the bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to them. And Scripture says: "With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him." (Luke 24:13-35) Jesus Christ, the Servant and Savior of all, gives Himself to us as the Bread of Life in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. He is new life, and hope for the hopeless.

Today, as for the last 93 years, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago responds to Jesus' tremendous gifts of life, faith and hope by caring for the poor in Cook and Lake counties.

The traditional *Catholic Charities Collection* on Mother's Day enables us

to recognize Christ—as the disciples did in today's Gospel—in our neighbors in need.

We see Christ in the face of each senior, Mom, Dad, child, teen, hungry or homeless man or woman who comes to us—of all races and religions; and we welcome them! Last year, Catholic Charities assisted more than 1 million people who sought our help!

When we break the bread of our lives with our neighbors suffering from poverty, job loss, or the fear of homelessness, our lives change for the better. When we donate food or serve at our six weekly suppers for the hungry and homeless in Cook County; provide clothing, shoes and socks for our clothing rooms in our Regional offices; become job coaches or support Catholic Charities fundraising events, we are fed by the gift of charity.

Through 159 programs at 156 sites, Catholic Charities daily provides professional social services such as counseling, as well as the basic necessities of life, for those in need—in body or soul.

We welcome seniors daily at luncheon programs at social centers and senior residences in Cook and Lake Counties. We feed hundreds of hungry and homeless people at daily, dignified sit-down dinners; and provide food for low-income mothers and children.

Catholic Charities houses hundreds

of formerly homeless or recovering veterans. We welcome refugees, comfort the sorrowful through counseling, provide shelter for homeless families, and help to restore hope and their children to mothers recovering their sobriety. We care for low-income seniors by providing dignified apartment living—or assisted living—in Catholic Charities' beautiful residences in the city and suburbs.

Primarily, we restore hope, because HOPE is what matters most to a homeless family, or a family with a parent out of work; or to a senior on a limited income who lives alone and needs assistance.

Only once a year do we ask your help in transforming the lives of thousands of low-income and homeless mothers and children in need of support. And we are good stewards of your gifts, because 92 percent of each donation to Catholic Charities helps someone in need.

Needless to say, Catholic Charities cannot serve a million people in need each year without a great deal of volunteer help! So, I invite each of our readers and parishioners to participate in our Mission of Charity. Yes, we need your financial support, but we also welcome volunteers, and greatly rely on the support of parishioners who offer their gifts and talents, language skills, and hands-on support.

I ask that you pray for the work of Catholic Charities, that we may continue to bring new life, help and hope to our neighbors in need! God bless you and your families!

For more information or to make a donation to the *Catholic Charities Collection on Mother's Day*, please contact Margaret Hughes at (312) 655-7012, or visit: www.catholiccharities.net; or www.caridadescatolicas.net.

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The Trinity Academy of Irish Dance steps on to the Schaumburg High School Auditorium stage for their 2011 spring performance, *Inspire*, on Saturday, May 7, at 1pm and 5pm. Schaumburg High School is located at 1100 West Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, IL 60194. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3-18, children under 3 are FREE if sitting on an adult's lap. Advance tickets are available by emailing info@trinitydance.com. Remaining tickets will be available at the door.

In a heart-pounding display of strength and agility, Trinity dancers ages 4-18 take the stage with new choreography as well as old favorites including "The Dawn," "Celtic Tiger" and "Johnny." Special performances include Trinity II, the junior touring company, Men of

Trinity and dancers fresh from the World Championships in Dublin, Ireland.

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Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Heat Check

We've come a long way from the market low we saw a little over 2 years ago. One consistent trend I see with investors is that they are still very cautious about investing in the stock market, and rightfully so. The past decade for stocks has

are we now? Is the stock market a good place to put your money? Are things really improving? If you ask the average investor, I believe the common response would be NO. A recent study showed stock mutual funds had a negative outflow over the past 12 months and bond mutual funds had a positive inflow of almost \$200 billion. Obviously this shows little confidence in the stock market moving forward, especially since interest rates are at all time lows. For this month's article, I'd like to take a quick gauge of the economy and stock market, a HEAT CHECK, to see where we are and where we might be headed.

As I mentioned, the economy and stock market have come a long way over the past 2 years. As it looks right now, we've recovered from the GREAT RECESSION. We've had 7 quarters of positive GDP growth. Considering the nasty hit consumers took during the recent financial meltdown and given that consumer spending accounts for 67% of GDP; that is a pretty impressive trend. Two of the biggest lagging sectors of the economy, housing and auto sales, have also improved. In July of 2010, existing homes sales hit a low of 3.8 million homes sold (annual). Since that time we've rebounded to an annual rate of almost 5 million; even though that is still far off of the high we saw in Sept 05 of 7.25 million, it looks like we are headed in the right direction. Another way to gauge the housing market is to look at foreclosure filings. In February of this year, foreclosure filings were at 225,000. That is still a high number that everyone would like to see go down, but it was the lowest number recorded in 3 years, and it is down 38% from the high of 367,000 filings, which occurred in March of 2010.

Auto sales are another way to judge

the economy and consumer spending. At the start of the great recession, auto sales started their freefall. The average annual sales number going back to 1985 has averaged around 15 million units. In February of 2009, that number hit a 20 year low of 9.3 million units. Six months later "cash for clunkers" helped U.S. auto sales rebound to just fewer than 15 million units, but that number was too high to maintain in a sluggish economy with high unemployment and without government support. Auto sales tumbled back below 10 million units the next month. Since then we have seen a steady increase in sales. The recent number for February 2011 was 13.8 million units. Again, that number is below the past decades average, but it does show potential for growth if we can get back to the mean.

Now let's look at the stock market. The recent bear market ended up lasting 17 months and the S&P 500 lost 56% of its value during that time. The current stock market recovery began in March of 2009 and through March 2011, the market has risen 95%. This is a very impressive number and in my opinion, it is the reason so many people are nervous about the stock market. They believe that the market has increased too far too fast and they are an-

icipating a major pull back or correction. That has to be why we have recently hit an all time high of almost \$6 trillion in liquid assets—the fear of buying at the top and getting burned. Should investors be cautious—always—but being cautious and taking too much risk by NOT investing are two different issues.

This current bull market has lasted a little over 24 months and currently returned almost 100% (from market lows in 2009). When you look back at the past 12 bull markets, we've experienced since 1928, our current run is below historic averages. The average length of a bull market since 1928 has been 57 months and the average return has been 164%. So historically speaking the current bull market could still have a long way to go and it may not be too late to participate in this market rally.

John P. Daly is a Certified Financial Planner™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management for individuals and families. Phone: 312-239-1317 Email: john@dalyinvestment.com. Call or email with questions re: Investments or financial planning. www.dalyinvestment.com.

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Ed McElroy, host of "Community in Focus" TV show, recently interviewed Sister M. Paul McCaughey, O.P., Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Commissioner Mary Dempsey, Chicago Public Library. Pictured from the left is Sister McCaughey, Ed McElroy, and Mary Dempsey.

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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Plus Ça Change

The new government needs some luck, and, frankly, much of what is on the horizon appears bad. I have just returned from the south of Spain, where one could almost hear the shouts of outrage from Ireland over its announcement on recapitalising the banks. After reflection, best judgement was that, rather than "burn the bondholders," another \$30 billion would be thrown at the banks. A Labour Minister promised that the government would act in the best interests of the country, echoing words of the former government. Déjà vu, anyone?

The howls came loudest from those who had switched to vote Labour, now swearing never again. In truth the government had little choice, just as it faces the fiscal future with very little room for manoeuvre. The honeymoon period, such as it was, is now over. The sniping from the left is likely to intensify, to the growing discomfiture of Labour. Fianna Fail remains, defeated but still dangerous; however, it is unlikely to recover until there is either a major government faux-pas or a further significant worsening in the economy brought about by some external force-majeure.

The public's anger has now focussed on "Europe," a term encompassing Germany, France, the ECB and the European Commission. All are deemed culpable in varying degrees, by: a) not controlling Ireland's financial regulator and institutions, b) allowing their national banks to invest in the Celtic Tiger bonanza, c) refusing to countenance making the bondholders pay lest their banks suffer losses, d) refusing to cut a deal on our repayment terms, lest their electorates object to paying for us, and e) a general refusal to accept Ireland's special case.

We have not yet reached the stage of calls that our involvement with Europe should be seen as some form of Faustian pact, i.e., we got all the goodies early on, but now Europe is costing us, is harming us and is inhibiting our manifest destiny (whatever that may

be). Yet there are already disturbing suggestions from the opposition and the public that we use our veto or threat of default to get our way (1% of the population of the European Union to determine what the other 99% does).

The phrase "eaten bread is soon forgotten" comes to mind. Ireland has benefitted enormously from Europe in terms of market access, huge financial transfers (the CAP, Regional and Structural Funds), a benign approach to our corporate tax regime, and much else. European social, environmental and human rights legislation has had a defining role in shaping contemporary Irish society. Furthermore, rightly or wrongly, Ireland chose a particular path in abandoning sterling 30 years ago and, later, in choosing to join the Euro, which we did with our eyes open, though much of our trade was outside the Eurozone.

There is some, but not much, justification for blaming "Europe" for not overseeing sufficiently closely Irish banks' reckless lending (and borrowing!). The EU is not, after all, a fully integrated entity like the USA, and the centre relies on national governments to micromanage policy. If there is a criticism to be levelled it is that, in instituting something as major as a new currency, there should have been greater care and attention to detail in advance as well as a stronger and more intrusive regulatory regime. Yet this is not the way the EU has worked to date. And had Europe intervened, during the Years of the Tiger, there would have been a chorus of "hands off" and shouts about attacks on our sovereignty.

The two major quantum leaps taken by the EU this century, Enlargement and the Euro, were, above all, political, and were taken after some but not necessarily sufficient preparation. EU practice has been that institutions are tasked or shaped to give effect to political decisions made. If tweaking is needed there will be heavy lifting; but this takes time. Up to now the system has worked and Europe has muddled through various difficulties.

It is evident that the Eurozone is currently in a deep crisis and that Ireland is a component in that crisis. The scale and depth of the

crisis were not anticipated, with some commentators suggesting there is more and worse to come. Right now Europe is struggling to find a solution, for both the short and the long term. This is a process and could last for some time. Irish politicians, commentators and the public have been less than enthused about progress to date. But there is still some way to go. In the meantime the European Central Bank is keeping our economy afloat. We would do well to keep this in mind.

Domestically there are some indications that economic growth is back, with exports rising and surveys among business showing more optimism than pessimism. Indeed there is a functioning economy out there, with hundreds of thousands more employed than ten or fifteen years ago. Anyone who doubts this should compare the traffic flows now with the late 90s, and, despite all the doomsayers, consumer spending is around 2003 levels—which were far from bad.

However, little impact has been made on unemployment levels, the banking system is moribund (apart from bullying small and medium debtors), interest rates and energy prices are rising—inhibiting the rate of economic growth—and the sands of reckoning for personal and mortgage debt are fast running out. Throw in the rising cost of servicing our debts just to keep the country running and it is clear that the target of cutting the budget deficit to 3% in any reasonable timeframe is achievable only by drastic cuts in spending or increases in taxation or some combination of both. The dynamics of a left/right coalition suggest that anything too radical will fail.

And that is not the worst of it. The mortgage crisis is moving inexorably towards centre stage and seems set to concentrate the government's mind later in the year, particularly given that those affected are middle class, and thus more likely to create a fuss. The situation has worsened since I wrote several months ago about the prospect of 25,000 plus mortgage defaults and repossessions (i.e., evictions), with scheduled interest rises over the next year set to compound matters. Up to 10% of mortgages are reportedly either in arrears or the subject of temporary special arrangements. The last government sought to postpone the issue by kicking it down the road through palliatives (a moratorium on repossessions) or a sticking plaster solution (a code of conduct, etc.). The problem cannot be ducked for much longer, with voices

already querying how the banks, which "we" own, can be allowed to pursue mortgage holders.

May promises some relief, with visits by the Queen and Barack Obama, both offering potential spin-off in terms of publicity and tourism. The government is also scheduled to launch its job creation programme, though how exactly this is to be financed is not clear. That, plus some confidence building measures, is about all the government has in its locker. A move from Europe, however small, would be very welcome and would underline who our friends really are.

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Senior Partner

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This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Implanted Artificial Knees & Hips Causing Significant Problems

As the baby-boomer generation advances in age, they are more likely to become artificial joint replacement candidates. Knee and hip replacements are the most common and have been the subject of recent controversy and litigation. Now, not only do joint replacement patients need to be concerned with working towards a healthy recovery after the implant surgery, they may now need to be concerned with faulty implants in their bodies.

The Story of a Surgeon vs. Implant Manufacturer

A prominent Chicago orthopaedic

surgeon installed a certain manufacturer’s artificial knees into patients for more than a decade. He helped the manufacturer design joint implants and the surgical tools used to install them. He also trained surgeons across the country to use this particular manufacturer’s implants. The manufacturer promoted and praised this surgeon. The surgeon talked up the manufacturer’s products. The two had a thriving relationship. But when the surgeon started noticing defects in the manufacturer’s knee implants, he alerted the manufacturer of his findings; in turn, the manufacturer

blamed any failure of the implants on the surgeon’s technique.

Because the manufacturer would not heed the surgeon’s concerns, the surgeon conducted and published a study demonstrating the defect in the knee replacement. The study showed that over 8% of the knee implants were failing. Again, the manufacturer responded by questioning the surgeon’s techniques, not its own product. The manufacturer then conducted its own studies on this knee implant and concluded, arguably self-servingly, that it was indeed a safe product.

The once prosperous association between this Chicago surgeon and the implant manufacturer culminated into a not-so-amicable separation.

A Manufacturer’s Conduct in a Recent Hip Implant Recall

Hip replacement surgery is fairly common in the U.S. Studies have shown that 90% of hip replacements are considered successful. However, a certain manufacturer, DePuy Companies, recently recalled its ASR hip implant system due to defects.

In 2003 DePuy released its ASR hip implant system, marketing it as unique in that it was a metal-on-metal design. The design was intended to last longer and provide more natural movement in the hip socket. However, the ASR hip implant did not live up to its intended design. The prosthetic “cup” was too shallow, making it susceptible to “edge

loading,” a process where the joint’s ball rubs up against the cups edge, chiseling off metallic debris.

The wearing away of the metal-on-metal condition creates a situation where metal debris is released into the body, causing a dangerous condition known as metallosis. Metallosis can destroy surrounding bone and tissue as well as increase the difficulty of a subsequent surgery to revise the implant. All the residual effects of metallosis are still yet unknown.

In March 2010, DuPuy issued a notice to surgeons in the United States that the ASR hip implant had a higher than expected failure rate. However, even more concerning, these notices to U.S. surgeons came months after DuPuy voluntarily withdrew the same ASR hip implant from the Australian market. DuPuy continued to market and sell the ASR hip implant in the United States for approximately six months after the Australian withdrawal finally recalling the ASR device in the U.S. in August 2010.

Estimates indicate that over 90,000 worldwide were implanted with this ASR hip system. DuPuy has since conceded that at least 13% of these patients will experience an implant failure and will require revision surgery. Studies conducted by others indicate that as many as 30% of the patients may experience this product failure.

Unfortunately, these revision procedures will be performed most predominantly on the elderly population, who are more susceptible to surgical com-

plications such as infections, deep vein thrombosis, femur fractures, continued pain and suffering, and, of course, the incurring of significant future medical expenses.

Government Oversight, or Lack Thereof?

Of concern is that the DuPuy’s ASR hip received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. There is a loop hole in the FDA approval process whereby when a manufacturer submits a new medical device that is “substantially equivalent” to a medical device already on the market, no clinical trials are required and the new medical device is automatically approved.

It is disturbing to know that many artificial joints, including the ones subject to recent controversy, were cleared by the FDA without comprehensive testing.

Manufacturers can initiate their own recalls. However, when medical device manufacturers fail to act responsibly and regulators fail to hold them accountable, it falls on the patient and the public to file complaints to ensure these defective products don’t harm more people in the future.

If you have any questions regarding medical implants, feel free to contact our offices.

By Matthew J. Healy



Meehall Recalls

Continued from Page 25

had sold the old house in Mt. Greenwood long ago and now they all lived together in an ancient stucco-walled apartment in Beverly on 95th St. It seemed like every other weekend my parents would pay them a visit and bring us kids along.

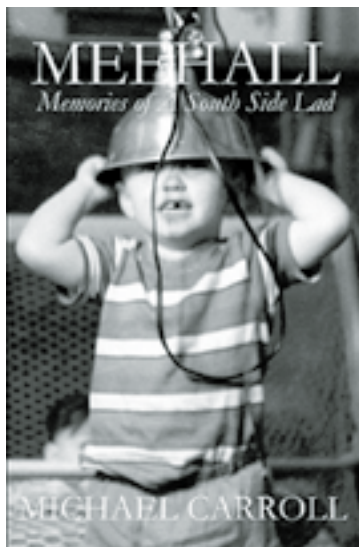
I loved the mysterious old building... like the lobby of a classic movie theatre of the 1920s, it transported you to the entrance of an Old Spanish castle. The huge dungeon door would swing shut behind us with a resounding boom and then we’d climb the endless flights of steps, the high ceilings echoing our every footfall, as if we had entered the grand gallery inside the Great Pyramid. Finally we’d knock on my Aunt Marge and Uncle Bud’s little black door, and within was all sweetness and light. The scent of little old lady perfume and dinner rolls baking in the kitchen, while out in the dining room my Uncle Bud would be asking my father if he’d like a Manhattan, and Dad saying “yes but it’s only noon,” and then Buddy would always quip “Well, the sun’s up over

the yardarm somewhere in the world,” and laugh and pour them both a snort. In Mudgie’s little kitchen with the aroma of her famous graham cracker cheesecake in the air, she’d be fixing us kiddie cocktails with ginger ale and a real cherry with a little colored plastic straw through it. Very posh. Aunt Marge was the sweetheart of the family, with her sparkling blue eyes and wonderful, infectious laugh. We all loved Mudgie and she loved us back, doubly. Whenever family was visiting, Nana’s favorite perch was next to the dinner table, where she could hear the conversations in all three rooms. When in need of a hug I could usually find her rocking chair parked there at the window next to the radiator.

But as we all must, eventually Nana grew frail and feeble. The little brass souvenir that her son George had brought back from India now served as a summoning bell in her last years, when it became difficult for her to walk. Since Nana’s room was back at the end of the hallway, she’d just ring the bell if she needed anything and my aunt or uncle would get up and go help her. She kept the bell on

her bedside table, and as a toddler it fascinated me.

Every time we’d come to visit, I would take off running all the way back



to Nana’s room where, taking a flying leap, I’d climb and claw my way atop the big white bed. Then I’d look up, smile back at my Nana and rush to get a hug, whereupon she’d lean me over to the side table and let me ring her big brass bell. Often my Uncle George or

Aunt Marge would suddenly appear in the doorway, only to find me in their mother’s arms with the bell in my hand. And Nana would throw her head back, crinkle those crystalline blue Waterford eyes, laugh merrily at Mudge and Bud, and then finally, always, flash that beautiful smile of hers.

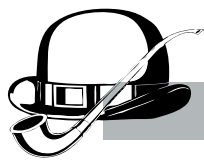
One day in 1964 when I was three, Mom bundled us all up and Dad drove us to the old apartment. As usual, I relished the ancient pillars and stained glass and the great big oak door and the buzzer and the long climb up the dark wooden stairs. And then we knocked at the little door and it opened and inside was all sweetness and light and as always, I ran immediately to the back bedroom to see Nana.

“Nana...?” I entered the room and there stood her Mount Everest bed, as big as ever and snowcapped-white, but it was all made up and no one in it. I checked the side table, but found nothing on it but a lamp. Maybe she was in the kitchen, or sitting in her chair by the tall window near the radiator. I ran as fast as I could back down the hallway, calling her name, but she was nowhere to be found and I was quickly picked

up and comforted by my mother, no doubt with tears in her eyes.

Later on as a child, I would always go into Mudgie’s room as soon as we arrived, give the little bell a light ring, and gaze at the wonderful black and white photo of my smiling great-grandmother beside it on the dresser. After Uncle Buddy passed on, my aunt gave me their mother’s brass bell as a keepsake. And every so often on a night like tonight, when I stop in front of the glass case in our living room, I’ll open the door and gaze for a minute at the beautiful lines and graceful curves of the old bell. Then with a sigh and a wistful smile, I’ll give it three little rings: one for kind, gentle Aunt Mudgie, one for good old Uncle Bud, and one for my dear, sweet Nana.

Chicago native Michael Carroll is an internationally known Celtic artist, working in the style of the Book of Kells, and more recently has authored three books. These stories are excerpted from his memoirs Meehall: Memories of a South Side Lad and its sequel The Trouble With Meehall. Both books are available at www.lulu.com.



Mick

Mike Morley



The World Did Gaze in Deep Amaze

Power rests on force of will and control of resources including finances, food, allies and information. Each is a need and also a weapon. The advantage of wealth is obvious. Is your enemy in a fortress you cannot breach? Starve him out. Is his message compelling? Drown it out. Does he have allies? Divide them.

But, information? What is the power of a word? Consider pro- vs. anti-abortion. That debate quickly morphed into Pro-choice vs. Pro-life. Both sides wish to wield Solomon's sword positively, while judging the fate of a human fetus/child. The idea is as old as advertising: link your cause to a concept everyone favors, like liberty; and paint your opponent with the tar of slavery. Selling actual tar (and nicotine) works the same: just display your smokes on a billboard next to a girl in a bikini—that's it. They will come. Association is simple and powerful.

Of 44 million Americans claiming Irish ancestry in 1981, *Time* estimated only 200,000 were active in Irish affairs. Of those, half lived in five cities: New York (where half the Americans born in Ireland lived), Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. These are the same cities where the shepherds of American public opinion man their long range guns: *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

When Bobby Sands announced in February 1981 that a new hunger strike was imminent, the battle lines were readied.

On Feb. 21 'The Irish People' reported a surprise early volley from Jane Byrne's Chicago: "Be it resolved that the Chicago City Council supports the demand of the political prisoners and strongly urges the British government to take the necessary action to prevent the tragic and disastrous results of a hunger strike. In the name of basic human justice, we urge the British government to grant the political prisoners demands."

March 1, the first day of Sands' hunger strike, was day 41 of Ronald Reagan's presidency. Three days earlier he had welcomed Maggie Thatcher to the White House saying, "Together we will work to continue to confront the scourge of international terrorism."

Bobby Sands wrote a poem "The Rhythm Of Time" in Long Kesh prison camp. The first and last stanzas read:

There's an inner thing in every man,
Do you know this thing my friend?
It has withstood the blows of a million years,
And will do so to the end.

It lights the dark of this prison cell,
It thunders forth its might,
It is 'the undaunted thought', my friend,
The thought that says 'I'm right!'

A timeless human confrontation: might vs. right. Ancient Hindus called it "dbarna," the Druids, "Troscad." It was a means of compelling justice and securing one's rights. According to Druid law: 'He who disregards the faster shall not be dealt with by God nor man... he forfeits his legal rights to anything according to the decision of the Brehon.' St. Ruadán of Lorrha, one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland cursed Tara and fasted against the High King, Diarmait. St. Patrick reportedly fasted against several persons to compel them to Justice.

But we live in a progressive society, and the powerful now have less fear of God's wrath and shame before mankind.

A stroke of fate: Frank Maguire, Independent MP for Fermanagh / South Tyrone, dies March 5th. Three weeks later Sinn Féin nominates Sands for the office. Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara have meanwhile joined the strike.

Sands is hospitalized March 28th. Two days later, a less auspicious stroke of fate: assassin John Hinckley shoots President Reagan.

Bobby Sands wins the election April 11th. But in eight days he will receive last rites. This appears to be the point where the power hitters of politics and media separate from more grass roots colleagues in both estates.

April 20th: Three Irish TDs visited Maze Prison, then called for urgent talks with the British government. Thatcher replies that the British government will not meet with Irish TDs to discuss the hunger strike, famously adding: "We are not prepared to consider special category status for certain groups of people serving sentences for crime. Crime is crime is crime, it is not political."

(Note: The strong-principled Bar-

ness did not see fit to apply her crime dogma at home when her offspring, Sir Mark Thatcher, who is now persona-non-grata even in the US, became involved in a Cromwellian scheme to allegedly seize by force a small, oil-rich African country; and when things went south, bailed out leaving his SAS "buddy" to rot in an African prison.)

On the 25th the *Irish Echo* reports: "Irish Deputies Ask Reagan to Mediate Hunger Strike."

April 28th: Pope John Paul II's private secretary visited Sands but could not convince him to end his fast. Ronald Reagan says America would not intervene in Northern Ireland affairs, but he was "deeply concerned". The *Chicago Tribune*: "Bobby Sands' deliberate slow suicide is intended to precipitate civil war."

April 30th: George F. Will in *The Washington Post*: "...it is well to remember that Sands is a terrorist."

May 2: The *Irish Echo* reports a telegram sent to President Reagan: "As members of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs, we are making an urgent appeal... that you immediately communicate with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to urge a humanitarian resolution in the matter of Mr. Robert Sands. We make our appeal to you in the spirit of peace and humanity." It was signed by 20 congressmen including 9 republicans. Here was one senator, Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY). Among the representatives, four had "Irish-sounding" names: John Conyers (D-Mich), William Carney (R-NY), Cardiss Collins (D-Ill), and James Nelligan (R-Pa). Another Illinois supporter: Frank Annuzio.

The Massachusetts Legislature passed a unanimous resolution asking the President to urge the Government of Great Britain to recognize Bobby Sands as a political prisoner. They cited "British injustice in occupied Ireland which violates the fundamental principles of common law and human decency that persons are interned without being charged with a crime; are unable to attain a trial by a jury of their peers; coerced confessions are admissible into evidence; and political dissidents are presumed guilty until they have proven themselves innocent."

Terence Cardinal Cooke, and other churchmen and labor leaders contacted Thatcher. But President Reagan and "The Four Horsemen" of Irish-American politics (O'Neill Kennedy, Moynihan and Carey) uttered few public statements up to that time. Meanwhile the media shepherds were piling on the coal.

Washington Post, May 3rd: "The primary aim of the fast is not simply

political status, but the international publicity." *The Globe*: "the slow suicide attempt of Bobby Sands has cast his land and his cause into another downward spiral of death and despair. There are no heroes in the saga of Bobby Sands."

"All this international attention gives the Provos a big lift. People get on bandwagons." John Hume, SDLP *Washington Post*, May 4.

In Washington, Father Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus, fasted outside the British consulate. In New York, a nun, Sister Rosaleen Halloran, fasted outside the United Nations. Protest marches were held in many U.S. cities.

Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro (D-Queens) telegraphed Thatcher: "I am asking you not to let Bobby Sands die... It's within your power to bring this situation to a peaceful end. For the good of England, and the good of Ireland, please set forth this important peace initiative."

Both *The NY Times* and the *Echo* report on the May 2nd New York demonstrations: "300 to 400 demonstrating in front of a British Airways office, moving to St. Patrick's Cathedral for a prayer vigil... praying in silence and

listening to the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, SJ, who tried unsuccessfully to visit Mr. Sands."

NORAIID sponsored a demonstration in front of the British Consulate. Thatcher was burned in effigy.

Tuesday, 5 May 1981, Bobby Sands, MP, died after 66 days on hunger strike. There were riots across Northern Ireland and in the Republic. The IRA increased attacks on security forces. The British government received international condemnation for its handling of the issue. It seems that many, including Thatcher, were caught by surprise, expecting MP Sands to break his fast before the end. Gerry Adams apparently shared that analysis.

More to come.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Be forewarned. At the end of this, nothing may be clearer. Hopefully, we’ll both be better informed, but this is murky stuff.

It all began years ago. *Fado, fado*. While having lunch with legendary Sligo fiddler, Manus McGuire, the topic of regionalization in Irish traditional music reared its head. Manus resides in East Clare. He agreed with music partner, Paul Brock (sitting across the table—the incomparable Brock-McGuire Band was in town), that the days of regional styles within the music are rapidly fading. More on why this is happening in just a bit. The point is that it used to be very obvious when you were listening to a Clare fiddler, and one from Wicklow. Roscommon flute players did not play like Dublin flute players, and Sligo fiddlers didn’t play like anybody. Back in the day, anyone could hear the difference and enjoy it. Tougher, now. Why this is, and what is the current state of regionalization, climbed on top of the memory wagon from that lunch with Manus years ago and led to this article. This is deep and tricky. So, we decided to go to three of the most knowledgeable people regarding these styles. Manus McGuire is already in the story, and is regarded by many as the best Irish fiddler in the world. Brendan Hendry is a magnificent fiddler from Derry, and is recently out with his second album, *Stringtones*. Hendry is widely respected as one of the great exponents

of the “northern style.” Alan O’Leary lives in London and is Dublin-born. In addition to running the iconic Copperplate Distribution, featuring the best in traditional artists, it can be argued that traditional flute player, Alan, and Harry Bradshaw, formerly of the RTE are the two most knowledgeable men living when it comes to the real music. It is unnecessary, but let us quickly add here, that of course, we are talking about real Irish music played by real, traditional musicians. Talk to Brendan Hendry. Brendan agrees that the differences in style are disappearing. Why? In the old days of traditional music—whenever that was—it was quite conceivable that a terrific musician may never have gone further than 20 or 30 miles from his or her home in the course of a lifetime. Slowly over time, this resulted in natural styles gathering around areas. (Here, we step off the curb into heavy traffic. It is critical to remember that all of this refers to an incredibly subjective experience. Music. What the ear hears. How it hears it. With that in mind, we continue.) The northern traits include a strong bowing technique, use of triplets, a lesser use of finger rolls, and a

lively pace. To the general punter, northern music is identifiable as being highly rhythmic and precise with deep emotion coming from the bowing technique. Brendan states, “From the northern perspective, I would include the nine counties with the distinct individual style to the west, including the northwest Donegal style. These styles have a very strong and rhythmically aggressive style, as opposed to the rest of the region which has a softer bowing style.” Names of great fiddlers like Jimmy Comac, Sean McGuire and Jim McKillop, come



Haley Richardson from Pittsgrove, New Jersey, has been playing the fiddle since she was three years old and now sounds like a veteran at seven years of age.

up frequently while talking with Brendan. This is where the waters start to part. Alan O’Leary agrees with Brendan and Manus McGuire’s feelings about the music, but adds a further dimension beyond simple geography. “I’ve never thought so much of geography, as of families. Within all these geographic areas, and the entire Island, you have these famous musical families. I don’t want to start naming them, because you inevitably leave out some of the greats. The point is that these styles are more reflective of family than a region. I don’t discount the geography, at all. But these family members went and taught others around their area. For me, the alpha and omega is the family in Irish music.”

Manus McGuire seconds that. Brendan Hendry would speak of “controlled aggression” meaning a direct aggressively open style in attacking the melody. Little ornamentation. Clear transitions note to note. That sort of thing. Manus, on the other hand, tells you that the secret to the southern style is the interpretation of ornamentation. The strong bowing technique is the hallmark in the south. “There is more of a bounce to the southern style, more of the lengthening of a transitional note. [Instead of bounce, your correspondent likes the term, “swing,” but Brendan Hendry disagrees—and who am I to disagree with him?] The northern style shows great lift and direct rhythm, while the southern style bounces a bit more.”

Again, Alan O’Leary checks in with another interpretation. “A lot of the music is losing its regionalization and its identifiable character because of fleadh, or musical competitions. Over the years, and I don’t think anybody would disagree with this, certain styles have become more favored by the adjudicators. This has resulted in every medal hunter naturally gravitating towards that style.”

Let’s take a breath. Where are we? Well, we

seem to have a general agreement among these three experts that regionalization is lessening and that the northern style is more direct, aggressive, and rhythmically precise to the exact measure. The southern style is all about ornamentation, bounce, and bowing technique. Brendan and Manus are going to disagree with even that statement. That is the fun of the music. There can be an endless dissection of it. Experts such as Brendan even attribute styles to the way that people speak in different regions. “These styles can all be influenced by the way people speak. Some people have

a voice that is soft and rounded and others are very direct. The speed at which they talk and their inflection, does their voice go up and down, or is it direct and fairly monotone? It all matters in the music.”

It is right about here that I stopped, leaned back in the office chair, and dreamed of a shot of Jameson’s. Bravely onward. NOW where are we? Wait. There’s more. The punch line to this whole complicated story is that when talking to great musicians like these three, they will tell you at the end of it all—brace yourself—that regionalization is actually not disappearing! This is counterintuitive. Vastly improved transportation in Ireland and

America, mass communications, fleadh, computers, records tapes, CDs. All of these and more have combined over the decades and centuries to provide a more unified approach. Seems natural, unavoidable.

But, wrong. Why? Because, the really great ones, like Hendry, McGuire, and O’Leary will tell you without hesitation that they can instantly still hear the differences in players and tell you where they are from. The first reaction at this point in the article should be to say, “Well, then, why have you written this in the first place?” Here’s the reason. All of the regional flavor is, in fact, lessening. But, it has not disappeared. All three of our panel of experts agree that the day is coming when these differences may be virtually non-existent. But not, thank God, for a while. “There is a nine year old girl residing in New Jersey who I heard play recently, Haley Richardson. She is a prodigy. She is already a brilliant fiddle player, and a student of Brian Conway in New York. Maybe this makes Alan O’Leary’s point. Brian Conway is a wonderful fiddler, greatly influenced by Andy McGann, whose parents were from Tyrone and Sligo. You can hear it in his Haley’s playing. It has always been like that, and still is.”

On it goes. As you investigate these matters in traditional music, you almost always find that what is assumed to be true is nonsense. “The great sean nós singers all sang without vibrato.” Nonsense. “Regionalization is disappearing and television is killing style.” Nonsense. However, Alan O’Leary may sum it all up best. “Because of mass communications, traditional musicians’ individual styles are in decline. But, there have never been more people playing Irish music.”

This much is true. The future does not hold the same amount of highly idiosyncratic styles that were a part of the past. Yet, the future is still very bright indeed. Just ask Haley Richardson!

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Daniel O'Donnell Here in May

Irish singing sensation Daniel O'Donnell brings his trademark combination of country music, inspirational ballads, '60s pop and Irish standards to Chicagoland. He will appear at Waukegan's Genesee Theater, Saturday, May 21 at 7pm and Peoria's Civic Center Theater, Sunday, May 22 at 3pm. Tickets are now on sale at the box offices: Waukegan Genesee Theater-847-263-6300 OR 1-800-982-2787, Peoria's Civic Center-1-800-745-3000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

O'Donnell's easy-going, entertaining on-stage personality make each live show an exciting event! O'Donnell will be joined in concert by his long-time musical companion, Irish vocalist Mary Duff, and The Daniel O'Donnell Band.

The multi-talented, Irish-born performer has starred in 10 national PBS television specials and has sold over 12 million CDs and DVDs worldwide. He is currently in production with his 11th PBS TV special taped at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. The country-music themed special will premiere on PBS in August, 2011.

O'Donnell's worldwide success is a far cry from the day Daniel used his own savings to record and release his first song, over 25 years ago. The singer's life is a fascinating tale of humble beginnings and a journey to musical success.

IAN talked to Daniel recently about his career.

IAN: We hear you are embarking on a tour of America.

D: Yes, in about a month.

IAN: How many places are you visiting?

D: I would imagine about 14 or 15, I think. We start out in Edmonton, Calgary, and we visit Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Iowa, Waukegan and Peoria in Illinois, and Toledo, Ohio for two nights.

IAN: Well, I tell you, we had a great time in Nashville and we love seeing you live.

D: Thank you!

IAN: It's nice to see musicians who have respect for people.

D: Well that's good, that you enjoyed it.

IAN: I see you are releasing your fortieth CD?

D: Yes. We hope our fans enjoy it.

IAN: What's next on your plans?

D: Well, as far as recording, I haven't made a decision when I am going to release another album. We might get one done by October. You know with recording. The record company wants to put another one out, but a good album takes time!

IAN: I hear that you used your own savings to record your first song.

D: That's right, yeah, back in 1983.

IAN: You had to step out on your own to make things happen for you?

D: Yes, I suppose. It is a very difficult business to get into. I had spent a couple of years touring and I really enjoyed it. I just wanted to see how I would do on my own. So, you know I don't expect people to actually dispatch their own private savings, but I used my IMF backup money and I borrowed some money. It produced about a thousand records or something around there. The money was being dispersed in many different ways. I got to record four songs, and the first single and all that. I used two of the songs, one was "Scottish Piping" and the other was "My Donegal Shores"—that was the song that got people's attention.

IAN: Now was that Ritz Records?

D: Actually that was on my own label. That first one was all me. Eventually I got with Ritz Records. They wanted me to do a two-sider, one thing in Cockney and one thing in Irish.

IAN: So those first thousand records, how did you distribute them?

D: Oh, just on my own. I would give them to shops in our local town. I sold them myself, I went around to places. I ended up ordering another five hundred records.

"My Donegal Shores" is really what made me a hit with the people and on pirate radio. Local radio was really popular then, but they would only want Irish stations to record them.

IAN: Pirate radio stations?

D: Yes. There was loads and loads of pirate radio stations then. So your records got played at those stations. They played the music that Irish people liked. You know that national radio wasn't playing the Irish music at that point, you know it was maybe a bit of an upgrade. The Irish radio was re-

ally the greatest media source here. I believe that starting out in local radio was for the best.

IAN: Sounds like you were in the right place at the right time. And you were making it happen, you didn't wait around for it to happen.

D: It could have been the time you know. I made the record in 1983, then I recorded after I got signed and did "My Donegal Shores" again. But it wasn't



until 1986 that things began to take shape. I wasn't overnight.

IAN: No, it took about three years.

D: How about that! It was over three years, and it was like someone switched on a light, and it was amazing!

IAN: If you haven't been a singer, what would you have been?

D: I think I would have been a teacher.

IAN: What do you think you would have taught?

D: I don't know. I practiced economics and math. I like the currency stuff.

IAN: Well that's quite a background for a guy in his own business. That must help you a lot.

D: Well, I don't know if it has or

not cause I don't... I sort of left it all behind me.

IAN: Not really, I noticed your very well organized. Your people are on top of things.

D: Well I have a lot of good people around me and that helps. I think the secret is you can't do everything yourself.

IAN: You have to delegate. So what was your first gig?

D: Well first, when I was advertising my own name, it was in Glasgow in Scotland. At the Irish Chapter in Glasgow. That was 1983. I went there for a weekend and I played at three different places, The Irish Chapter, behind there is a bar called the Squirrel Bar, it's a small place with a sitting room, it was nice. In July that year I started my own band in 1983.

IAN: And that was after you've been out on the road with your sister?

D: Yes, I was out with Margaret, I call her Margaret, but its Margo in the music business. That was in 81.

IAN: And your both still going strong. So what was it like growing up in a musical family?

D: I suppose you don't think about it really except that music was always there because Margaret was always singing. We were very aware of our music and our Irish background and ballads as well as American country records. That's were the love of country music came from. We were always aware of music, and as a child I would go up and sing with her. As a 10, or 11 year old I would get up and sing a song

with her in her shows. So I was always singing, you know.

IAN: What part of Ireland do you live in?

D: I live in a little village outside of Donegal—Kincasslagh, Co Donegal, Ireland. Right on the West coast. Kincasslagh. It's a very small place. It's just got a shop and a pub. When we were growing up it had two shops a pub and a post office. But one of the shops closed down. Its very small, but lovely.

IAN: So you're really not too far from the border are you?

D: Well from Derry we would be about 60 miles.

IAN: What are your favorite things to do when you're not working?

D: Well, I do like it when we go out, and I do like dancing as well. I love to play cards. I just love card games. I grew up in an area where playing cards were always around. I'd get home and there is this place for forty years we've been going every Tuesday night and every time I go home we go there. I just love playing cards. We were actually on holiday in Tennessee and they were playing gin rummy and I got to play it for the first time in that show. I just love playing cards. You know my life is very structured. Its nice to just sit back and not have anything doing and just let it roll.

IAN: So, when your in Ireland, where are your favorite places to visit?

D: I love when I'm at home, for me there is no other place, it's the best place of all. But there is so many dif-

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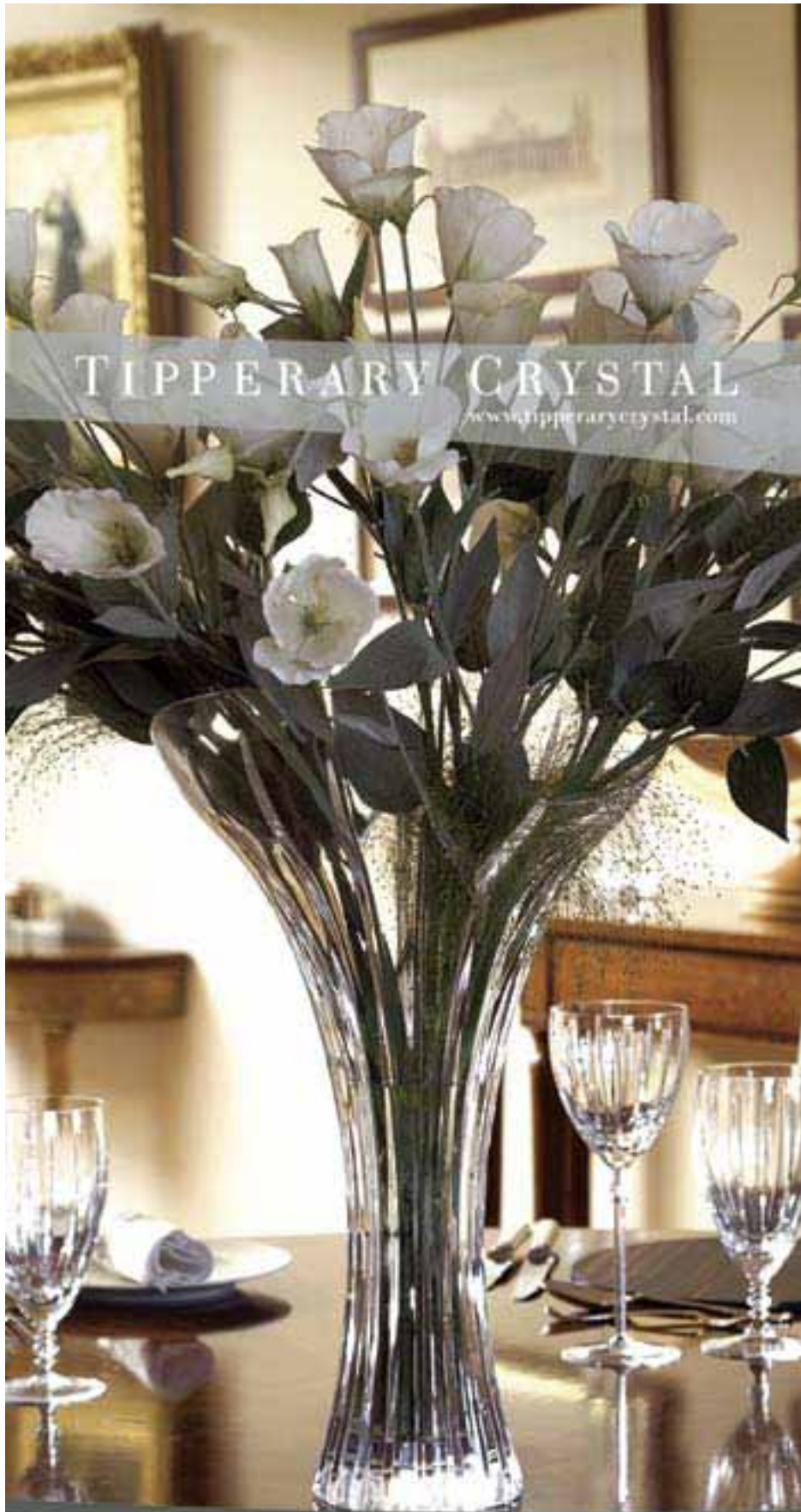
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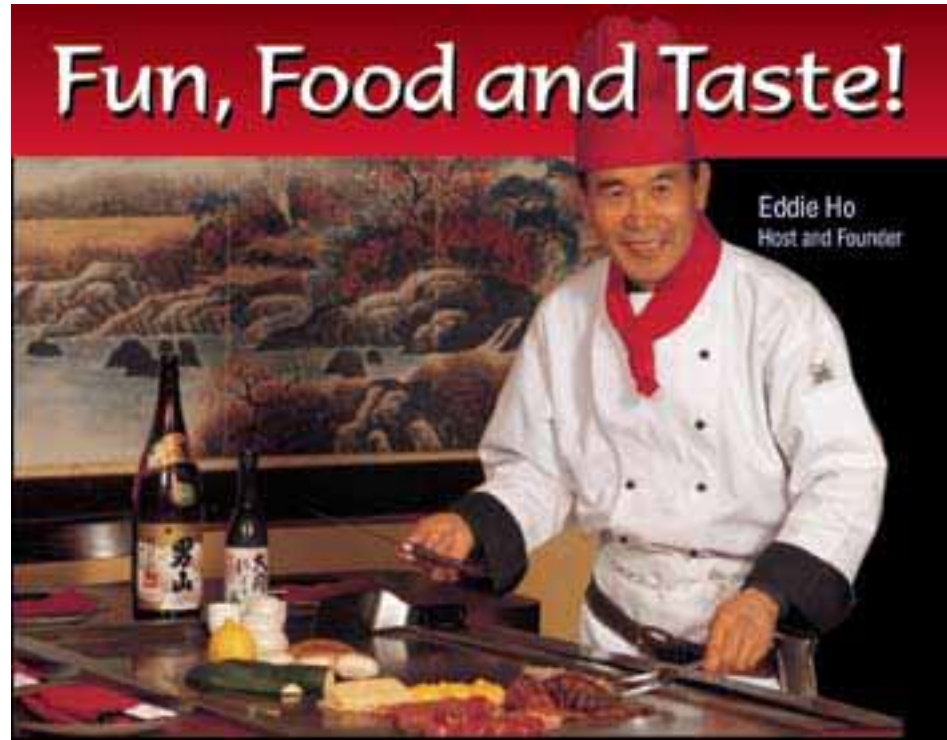
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Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



Some of you might have been confused last month. I accidentally sent my column from last year. Sorry about that. Here is what really happened *this* year. Enjoy! (I was bound to make one mistake in the 2 years I’ve been doing this.)

Well my St. Patrick’s Day (parade weekend) was amazing as usual. On Saturday, I got up bright and early, stopped at the Hilton to meet up with the rest of my family. We all headed to the parade. As, I turned the corner and saw the line of floats, a wave of excitement rushed over me. I ran to the Irish Fellowship float so I could get a good seat. After a little while I decided to check out some of the other floats. I ran into some of my friends who were riding on a different float. I had to take a few pictures for my school newspaper. I realized the parade was getting ready to start, so I rushed back to take my place. I yelled “Happy St. Patrick’s Day” and waved until my arm hurt. It wasn’t too cold. A lot better than last year, but my feet were freezing. Then it was the long walk back to the Hilton for the Mercy party. I ate when

we got there before my sister and I had to get ready to dance. We had to practice to figure out which dances we were going to do. After we danced, I ran around and played with my cousins, brother, and sister. We had a great time. After the party, we all headed to Aurelio’s in the south loop. It was delicious as always.

On Sunday, I was off to Arlington Hts. to meet some Mullane dancers. We danced at a party at Our Lady of the Wayside. Our performance was great. It was great to dance just for fun. I love the two hand reel. I also liked tipping reel, which is a dance with no music and only the beat of the hard shoe is heard. Then we were off to Peggy Kinnanne’s to help them celebrate their 10th anniversary. I’d like to thank Derek for taking good care of us. We ate some delicious food and danced another wonderful performance. Everyone did a great job. It was a fabulous St. Patrick’s weekend filled with dancing and family.

I also wanted to congratulate this year’s St. Patrick’s Day queen, Sarah Gorecki. I saw her a few years ago when

she was a just a princess. She played Belle in a community theater version of *Beauty and the Beast*. I don’t think I will ever have a voice as beautiful as hers, but I hope I can follow in her footsteps and be queen!

Oh, I almost forgot, I went to St. Louis for 2 feises and I got a first, finally! I actually got firsts both days, but they were both in my slip jig. Now I only need to get firsts in 3 more dances to get into PC level. I went to Milwaukee for a feis and got another first, but it was in my slip jig, again. I did qualify for oireachtas. Now I can start practicing early.

I also went to my first White Sox game of the season. It was so much fun! It wasn’t too cold and I had a delicious Italian ice. The Sox won, too. It was icing on the cake. It was good to be back, but I wish it was warmer. I have some sad news. You may remember that I’ve mentioned Bev’s hot dogs in a few of my columns. Her hot dogs are amazing and spring isn’t spring without having a hot dog from her cart. She died recently. I just wanted to take a moment to remember her. So please keep her family in your prayers.

Happy anniversary to my grandma and grandpa. They have been married 50 years this month. Happy Mother’s Day to my mom and all the other moms out there!

Daniel O’Donnell

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ferent parts of Ireland. Donegal has tremendous scenery you know. I love Cork, and actually the whole coast. Since it’s such a small country you can get around it very easily. It just takes forever to go around. The whole coast is beautiful. Been all around it. It’s so hard to pick places to say that one is better than the other.

IAN: Where haven’t you been in Ireland that you would still like to see?

D: Well, I haven’t been to the giant causeway, I have been meaning to go and see it but haven’t had a chance.

IAN: So in the United States, is there places you like here?

D: You know when your on the road, you don’t get a lot of time to see a lot of places. As far as holidays or vacation, I haven’t been on many holidays since I was 4. Mostly we toured on them. I do have to say, I like to eat. I love to eat I suppose. I’ve been to San Francisco and enjoyed it. Went to Las Vegas and just thought it was super. And we spent a lot of time in Missouri. I guess that’s what I know better cause we spent a lot of time. I suppose we like the small town feel and the people are very nice. The local people were just very welcoming.

I know I said we don’t see a lot, but

I love the variation there is by traveling across the country. The Midwest is very flat and you get into Pennsylvania, and it’s so very beautiful. My its just lovely to see all the different terrains. And coming through Iowa, so many different farms, the ones with the big barns with you know the... it might not mean anything to you but we see them in the pictures.

IAN: So what would be your advice to someone who is trying to break into the music industry?

D: Well, if I was gonna tell anybody what to do, it would be whatever challenge you have yourself, whatever voice you have yourself, you should put caution to it all. Don’t try to be like somebody else. I think the maturity of self and your sound should be the best thing.

IAN: Is there anything you would like to say to the audience here?

D: We are very grateful for the support you folks have given us over the years since we got ours shows here on PBS and the people who have come to see us. Since PBS has given us a huge platform and wider audience. So very grateful to people to coming to our shows and supporting my career. We are looking forward to singing for you soon!

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IAN talked to the Hagerty siblings who make this program possible. Jack, Denise, and Ed Hagerty have all been appearing on and announcing the show for over 30 years.

IAN: I want to go back to your

mom and dad, Jack and Arlene. Tell us a little about how your mom and dad first came here.

Denise: Well, Dad was born in this country. His mom and dad were both from County Clare. First generation. He was very active in the Irish community, mainly dancing and entertaining. Dad took step dancing from his cousin, Mae Kennedy Kane, at a very young age. He danced at the Century of Progress in 1933. He was there with Pat Roach and Donald O’Connor the actor. O’Connor and my dad danced together in that.

Jack: He was the MC at the Century of Progress at thirteen. They called him Sonny.

Denise: Then he started his own dance school in his late teens.

IAN: What did he tell you about the Irish Village at the Century of Progress, because it seems to be kind of a watermark with the Irish in Chicago?

Denise: I think it was a big event for all the ethnic communities. Mae Kennedy Kane was there, Pat Roach was there. Have you read the book, Steps in Time? She documents the whole history of Irish dancing in Progress. But I think it was the first time the Irish had their own stage in Chicago. I gathered from the stories about it that it was a huge success for the Irish. Being the MC and dancing there, that was my dad. Even at age 13. He loved being in front of people, being with people.

Jack: He was US Mens Champion in mens step dancing at the age of 13. I’m telling you, I’ve seen Michael Flatley dance, and to be around that and to see how my dad could dance...

Denise: He was like liquid, he was so smooth.

IAN: When did he meet your mom?

Denise: They met right after he started the Irish Show in 1951. She was working in Senator Dirksen’s office in Chicago. She was one of two on his staff. My father was very active in Republican stuff on a national level, but active locally on the Democratic side. He was working in Dirksen’s campaign and that’s how they met. Jack and Arlene got married in November 1953. And he had his show, Irish Melody Time which started in 1951. Irish Melody Time started about 4 o’clock on Sundays. And there were a variety of people on the show with him. He ran that for about a year and a half. The station came to him and asked him to DJ an all Irish hour starting on Saturday mornings. In the letter my dad sent out in 1953 to potential listeners, he said, ‘This show is for you. It is for all of you, and it is to keep our community alive.’ That was the start of our Saturday morning Irish hour from 9 to 11 am on 1490 AM WPNA at the same studio we have now.

IAN: I’m sure your mom and dad danced and went out to Jim O’Neill’s place?

Denise: Yes! Jim and

Kay owned the Holiday Ballroom, and they would come to our house on Sundays. We thought they were really awesome because every time they would come they would bring a little box of chocolates for the children. And nobody we knew had enough money to

buy a box of chocolates for every kid! I danced at the Holiday Ballroom as an Irish dancer.

8 years old, and I remember the first commercial Dad had me do on air for the McLennon Pen Company.

Here’s the story of how Dad met Jack for the first time when he was on the elevator at the Oak Park Arms. Dad got on and had a McLennon pen in his pocket. A guy on the elevator had a pen, so my dad said to the guy “I want to show you this McLennon pen, its one of the best pens I’ve ever seen.” My dad was pitching the pen to the guy who owned that business! He didn’t know who he was!

Denise: Well, McLennon was a long time sponsor after that. Mom used to write up the cue cards for dad when they did the TV show. They would bring out cue cards made for teleprompters and with magic marker write out all the script for him. It was unbelievable, but he did like the spotlight.

IAN: How did you all start getting involved with the show?

Denise: That was the Saturday morning treat. You’d go the Saturday morning show with dad.

IAN: When was the earliest you were on the show?

Jack: Well I began to go with him when I was four or five. When he was sick he needed a lot of help. I don’t remember exactly, but I believe he did the show up until really close to the day he died. Probably a month. We went as little kids and then as we got older we didn’t go. It probably stopped at the age of 11 or 12.

Denise: See, Donna and I went longer. I can still remember going to Elmhurst in 1964, so I was 10. We girls went every Saturday. We’d bring our new friends to the show. Then after the show you’d go to Maguires, then maybe a few more places after that. If you had

a really good Saturday, then you would go to this place called Bucket of Blood! It was a progression, it was a party. I can still remember bringing my new friends, and we’d walk into Maguires and they would be like, ‘Wow its a bar’ and I’m thinking ‘Wow they are ten and they’ve never been in a bar! How is that possible?’

There were 5 seminar-ians from Lemont seminary that were a big influence to us as kids. Harrity, Flaherty, O’Donnell, O’Grady and Doyle came out to the Irish

hour to advertise a spaghetti dinner fundraising event. My dad had them all back to the house and, until they were ordained as priests, we had the seminar-ians at our house every Sunday for dinner! They brought their guitars, we had a blast!



Jack at Century of Progress 1934

Jack: Jim O’Neill kept a picture of me from when I was 6 in his wallet and would show it to me when I got older to people. It was not the best picture. Let’s just say it was far from good and good from far. But we loved Jim and Kay, they were good people.

My dad went to work at WGN television on the same day as Jack Taylor,



Tara and Caitlyn

another well known name in Chicago. He spent 3 or 4 years doing on-air announcing. He started a show which was a precursor to Family Classics. The show was sponsored by the Jack McLennon Pen Company. I remember flipping the channels forward when I’m

THE SCRIPT

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Ed: And the pop tarts. They brought us pop tarts and stayed for roast beef and mashed potatoes.

There is no choice. I liked it.

Denise: The radio show was a big part of our parents life, but it was also



25th Anniversary Party Irish Hour 1976
(Ed, Denise, Jack, Donna, Tom, Jim, Arlene & Jack Sr.)

IAN: Did you have any particularly Irish customs or traditions growing up?

Denise: Just the step dancing. Me, Donna and Jack. But Jack dropped out after he figured out he had to wear a kilt.

Jack: Well, there were only two guys out of sixty girls. I was kind of a minority, though looking back at those days, I should have stuck with it.

IAN: Any instruments?

Denise: No, not really. We all kinda dabbled in stuff as kids but nothing really stuck. Ed, though, is a really good ballroom dancer.

Jack: Let me tell this story! We were all in our early 20s and pretty social animals. Out of all the brothers, myself, Tommy and Jimmy were more prone to be seen on the dance floor, and Eddie would not be that guy. Time comes, Tommy's getting married in Boston. We are at the reception after the wedding and all of a sudden I look out at the dance floor and I see Eddie out there dancing a fox trot. I'm like, where the hell did you learn that? Now, Ed doesn't do anything half-way, so he decided for Tom's wedding that he was going to surprise everyone. For a year and a half, five days a week, two to three hours a day, he takes ballroom dancing classes. So many he...

Denise: Becomes Fred Astaire!

Jack: At least borderline professional. We were all stunned. It was a great surprise.

Denise: Well, you still do it?

Ed: Oh, I dance once a week at least. Well, you know what happens when you do something five days a week for a year? You either love it or you hate it.

a big part of our life too. The social life, the concerts, the Clancy Brothers, and others when Jim O'Neill brought them to town. For his job, dad lived in DC and in New York at some point in the 70s. We stayed here in Chicago, and he would come back every Friday night and do the Irish hour on Saturday mornings every weekend. He was truly dedicated. If you think about it he did the show every Saturday for 29 years. Nobody helped him out.

Jack: It's the difference between a vocation and avocation, this was his avocation. This was his love. It was what drove him, it was him on stage, at the center, and him opening up doors for the community as well. I mean he was an entertainer.

IAN: What did your dad do for a living?

Denise: At that time he was in reinsurance. In the early 60s he started his own company. He was in WWII, and he served in Germany. He had three bronze stars. He never really talked about it. He didn't speak about it until he was dying. When he was dying he talked about how hard it was.

He and my mother were both, technically, in the first St. Patrick's Day Parade on the West Side. Tom Gibbons and Tom Ryan, founder of the Shannon Rovers, created a mini West Side parade and they used hearses for the floats and filled them up with flowers. My mother rode in it, and that parade was ultimately brought downtown.

Ed: How the story goes—what I was told by Bobby Ryan—was that he [my father] went down with Tommy Ryan, and Stephen Bailey, the head of the plumbers union around 1952.

But, it was three of them who went to see the mayor, saying if they had this parade the plumbers would serve as the sponsors. The people who have written the parade history have overlooked that little meeting of how the parade came to be.

Denise: Well, Mayor Daley deserves some credit.

Jack: Yes he does. He made it happen. But the idea came to him in a wrapped package. Plumbers were going to sponsor it. And I believe from 1952...

Denise: Until the year my dad died, in 1980, he announced that parade. We thought it was great as kids. We'd go downtown and climb on the grand stand with the mayor. He did it every year, he never missed it. The Ryans and the Hagertys were in there from the start.

Jack: He started to get really sick in '79. I was in college and I was coming home pretty much every other weekend to help. But I was never on the show as a kid. I was in sports, so my Saturdays were spent doing that. But when I came back from college I got to go on.

IAN: You all seem to be very suc-

smart, and I thought, Oh no, I'm in big trouble now!

IAN: Did you all go to the same college?

Denise: No, but we all went to the same grammar and high school. It was a parish school. And, yes, Jack is right, they pushed education and they pushed grades, which is probably a good thing. But everybody went off on their own. Ed got an athletic scholarship to the University of Oregon and played ball there for four years. He got over 70 scholarships to play football. And the most impressive thing about it is that he actually played linebacker for 4 years, got his degree in 3.5 years, and spent the rest of the time going to graduate school. That goes back to, I think, the education.

Jack: We have six college grads, four advanced degrees. All very financially successful. I can tell you how my mom use to tell the story: Denise, she's the CFO of a medical organization. Donna went to University of Illinois and is a graphic artist. Eddy went to University of Oregon, got an advanced degree and played football. Tommy went to

Denise: Yes, it was Family, Religion, Education.

IAN: I think fun came first.

Denise: Well, nobody had more fun than my dad! He was 59 when he died, but he lived it like 118 years. I think the biggest testament to our parents is that we are all very much in contact with each other, all the time. We spend our holidays together. We get together every summer.

Jack: Everybody's had a connection to the program at one point or another. Donna's not here. She did a couple of shows and is a great supporter. Tommy did the show a number of times. Jimmy's been a producer for many, many years.

Denise: And he's read a couple public service announcements.

Jack: All of us have been on the air. My girls, Tara, Caitlyn and Kelly have all been on the air, and cousins, Ryan and Devin. The two girls in Boston, Keira and Jamie, will do it on one of their trips to Chicago. The next generation has made its way to the airwaves. I'm grooming my replacements!

IAN: How has your programming



The Hagerty's today with the future radio generation

cessful. Your parents must have had a lot to do with that.

Jack: I thought, I didn't need to go to college. I was a little stubborn, early. I had an opportunity to get a management position and make a fair amount of money. I didn't want to go to college. My mom said, "you're going to go" and dragged me by the ear. After much debate, I eventually saw her way of thinking and I did eight or nine more years of school out of my own volition. My parents were very strong on education. We had a very competitive household among the children as well. Everybody was on a peg board and there were comparisons drawn. I don't know if that was good, bad or indifferent, but it did create a pretty competitive environment. I remember going to school and the teachers were like, Oh, you're Denise and Donna's brother, you must be very

Harvard. Jimmy went to U of I, and Jack is doing fine.

The competition never stopped. They were very, very focused education wise. We are a very Irish family!

changed from the early days until now?

Denise: Well, there was a lot of Ceili

Continued on Page 38



Chicago's First Family of Irish Radio

Continued from Page 37

band days when my dad did the show. A lot of Jackie Barrett and the accordion music. I think we go a little bit more 1980s.

IAN: Did you three bring in the interviews?

Denise: Jack and Ed were the ones that really got that going.

Jack: I don't know how that happened, honestly, but I think it was a function of a couple of things. We had befriended many of the Irish counsel generals here in town. I think they knew we were reasonably well educated, and that we would treat visitors with respect. So, we began to get calls from the Irish government, and the English government as well, whenever they would come to town. They thought we had a fairly wide and diverse audience. They wanted to get out a message. We got some interesting interviews over the years. One of the most disturbing interviews I ever heard was the interview Ed did with David Trimble.

He was the Ulster Unionist Party leader, and he was the first minister of Northern Ireland. We got a call from the English government here and they said that David Trimble was going to be in town and did we want to interview him? Well they didn't tell us that there was specific guidelines that needed to be followed. We had to lockdown the studio. Nobody could come in. They had security so myself and Trimble were in the studio, and I'm telling you, you could just see the intensity. It just oozed out of him.

IAN: Who else have you interviewed?

Ed: Mary Robinson, John Hume, Brid Rogers, Bairbre de Brún, Mitchell McLaughlin, Ben Briscoe who was the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Peter Mandelson, who was the UK Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. That's actually one of the great stories. Mandelson was downtown staying at the Ritz, and I gave him times I could meet him, but if it was any other time he would have to come

to my office. A week before the interview they sent the secret service to the Jefferies office to check it out and meet everyone. I had no idea this was a big wig. Then they sealed off the street on Monroe and Dearborn on all corners. He walks in with 11 or 12 handlers and I have Chris, our old engineer at WPNA, with a \$12.99 tape recorder,



Senator Dirksen and Jack Sr.

and I wrecked the guys' whole day.

One of the great ones was Marjorie Mowlam, who died 6 or 7 years ago. She had the job before Mandelson. She died of brain cancer. She was magnificent. Senator George Mitchell was great. We just talked for two hours. And Michael McDowell, the former Attorney General of Ireland.

IAN: Who's your favorite interviews?

Ed: Mine, no question, was Ben Briscoe. When he came into the studio he was very well dressed and Dublin was just done celebrating its Millennium. He was the representative picked to come to Chicago to talk about tourism. I did not read his bio before the interview. Briscoe walks in with the Lord Mayors pendant on, dressed to the nines. And he walks

up to the microphone and says, 'There once was an Irishman and a Jew...' and here I am, I had no idea there was a Jewish population in Dublin and he's Jewish. I can't do the interview,

but he is so well spoken he carried it through for 20 minutes. That was the most fun interview I ever did.

IAN: What was the worst radio moment?

Jack: The worst? There were lots of them on Saturday mornings when I was in college. Any Saturday morning that followed a Friday evening was perilous for years! I think there were moments early on where we had no idea what we were doing. We learned as quickly as we could. But there were problems. For a long time, there was someone

who had problems pronouncing the word Fucke's. For Fucke's Wheels. That might have been mispronounced by one of my siblings! The nice thing was the people who came out to the show, particularly those people who supported us during this transition. They were so kind to us.

Denise: Some who helped us were Mike Kenny, Brendan O'Leary, Liam O'Brien. They were so good and really took us under their wing. I know why they did it, they loved my father. They were awesome in the way they stepped forward and helped us. Our cousins, Maureen and Dennis Wade, came to the show every week early on to help us out and encourage us to keep the show going. Otherwise there wasn't a prayer in hell, excuse my language, that we were going to last more than six months. When we first started, I couldn't get my hand to stop shaking when trying to put the needle on the record. It took me about five minutes, and I had to hold down the other hand trying to steady it. I was scared to death, but you know what, it was probably the one thing my dad wanted. Keep it going. It was really important to him that we do that. And my mother was determined to make that happen too.

IAN: What about the next 65 years?

Denise: You got to be kidding me! Well, Jack's oldest girl is four years away from a drivers license, so we'll have to ask her.

Jack: I gotta tell ya for some of us... well for me it was pretty easy stepping into that chair. I

between Ballybunion, Waterville, and Tralee golf courses. Its easy.

Jack: I've been there for a few golf trips. My wife's family is from Mayo, and our family is from outside County Clare. The Dysart area, you know Dysart Castle? Our great grandmother and her children were the last inhabitants of that castle. They were squatters. Her husband was killed. He was an Irish police officer. But in terms of what to see, I say see it all if you can. My favorite course is Lahinch. When I walk the course at Lahinch I feel a connection to the earth I cannot explain.

Here is a story about the Hagerty brothers at Lahinch. Ed use to organize this outing at least once a year and all 24 of us would go out on this trip for nine days. Lets just say it was exhausting, you were tired when the trip was over. I'm walking down the 3rd fairway and my caddie is maybe 5'3" tall. Not real talkative, but a very nice man. He looks at me and says, 'Hagerty is the last name, huh?' I said yes. 'These your brothers?' Yes. 'Do you know what they say of the Hagertys of Clare?' I said what? He said 'Don't *blank* with the Hagertys.'

IAN: Some of you have overcome a bit of adversity too in terms of cancer.

Jack: Yes. I had cancer in 1991. I'm a survivor.

Denise: We have a few cancer survivors. Four out of six siblings. Both parents died of cancer. But hey, a lot of people have it a lot worse.

Jack: Make sure you appreciate what you have, don't sweat the small stuff. All I have to do is look at my back wall and see the most important thing in the world to me, my family and my kids.

Denise: You know it was really tough when my dad died in 1980. I was in my 20s and these guys were still in school.

IAN: He never got to see any of you get married.

Denise: Right, and at the time you think, this is so horrible, this is so bad. But the reality is, he gave us this, he gave us each other. He really did. Even if we cross ways, we are still really close. Jack has three girls, Tom has two girls, Donna has two sons. They are great kids, all doing well.

Ed: You know the radio show has survived two generations. It keeps mom and dad alive.

Jack: I made a promise to myself and to my mother before she passed away that we would make it to fifty years. And the

only reason we made it to 60 is by virtue that there are three of us. It's too much for one person. Our busy careers and lives. We all have our own tastes and passions. A friend of mine when he listens can tell by the selection played who ran the show. It's a lot more fun when it's live. You get the energy of the people with you. When I'm by myself it's not so fun, but with people it is much more fun.

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Cliff Carlson

wasn't very good at it at first and I'm probably not very good today. But it was relatively easy for me to do. I'm not big on huge amounts of pre-show prep. Denise probably does more pre-show prep than I do show. She is a perfectionist and she spends the most on pre-show time, Eddy spends a fair amount of time, and I flip the switch when my butt hits the seat and we are off. Denise prefers order, I prefer chaos!

IAN: have you all been to Ireland?

Jack: Yes, Many trips.

IAN: Where have you been?

Denise: Well, Ed's been the most now. He's an Irish citizen.

Ed: I go to Ballybunion. I'm a member of the golf course there. And it's just an area I love. So I spend my time mostly in Kerry. Alternating

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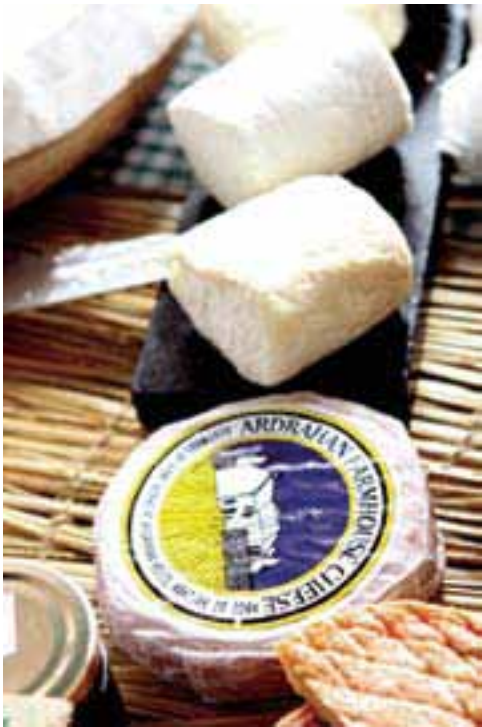
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By Rachel Gaffney

On the morning of March 17th, I was prepared bright and early for my eight radio interviews with FOX talk radio. I’m not quite sure how much you can in fact prepare for a four minute interview with different hosts in different states, only knowing that they were going to ask you questions about Ireland!



Hours later, with the interviews completed, I was driving to the ABC studios in Dallas to appear on morning television and thought to myself that those interviews absolutely reaffirmed for me, why I do what I do. Why? People who start their own businesses, generally speaking, tend to start a business where there is a niche. Where there is something missing, a need. One question in particular stood

out for me. “Besides the usual known places in Ireland, what or where would you suggest people do that they ordinarily wouldn’t associate with Ireland? My immediate response was a ‘Foodie Tour’ to which, there was a resounding gasp. “How many ways are there to prepare potatoes?” People think this is indeed very funny, but believe you me, to us, the Irish, it isn’t!

Agriculture is a year round activity in Ireland, its temperate climate and the Gulf Stream all contribute to a fertile soil and lush grass. Growing up, fresh ingredients were the norm and not the now ‘trendy’ that it seems to be everywhere. A ‘Foodie Tour’ may be the last thing you ever think of, but believe you me it is nothing short of a treat for the senses. Ireland is divided up into four provinces. Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connaught. You can tour each region and literally spend days in one place and be pleasantly surprised at how much you can do.

Local food heroes include the famous Burns family from County Cork. They founded the Ardrahan herd of pedigree Fresian cattle and use their milk to make the world famous ‘Ardrahan Farmhouse Cheese.’ Cooking Schools abound in Ireland. Most, if not all of these locations are idyllic. Belle Isle School of Cookery is located in the heart of Co. Fermanagh lakelands, Ballyknocken House and

Cooking School is nestled in the hills of County Wicklow, also known as the Garden of Ireland.

The most famous of all is Ballymaloe Cookery School in my hometown of Cork, to be precise Shanagarry, East Cork.

If you are interested in visiting Ireland and experiencing this food revolution firsthand, there are a number of very helpful sites. There are two in particular that I think are extremely good at guiding you through this process:

www.Discoverireland.com and www.goodfood-ireland.ie.

So, if you like to cook, care where you food comes from, or just like to eat, a trip to Ireland, the real Ireland, is a must to satisfy all.

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The Book of Kells' Five Most Distinctive Illuminated Leaves

In 1185, the monk Gerald of Wales visited Ireland and wrote an account called *Topographia Hibernica*. He included a description of a book he saw at the Abby of Kildare.

He begins, “Among the wonders of Kildare, nothing seems to me more miraculous than that wonderful book which, they say, was

written in the time of the Virgin [St. Brigit] on the directions of an angel. The book contains the harmony of the four Evangelists according to Jerome where for almost every page there are different designs, distinguished by varied colours. Here you may see the face of Majesty, divinely drawn, there the mystic symbols of the Evangelists, each with wings, now six, now four, now two; here the eagle, there the calf, here the man, and there the lion,

and other forms almost infinite. Look at them superficially, with the ordinary casual glance, and you would think it an erasure and not tracery. Fine craftsmanship is all about you, but you might not notice it. Look more keenly at it, and you will penetrate to the very shrine of art. You will make out intricacies, so delicate and subtle, so exact and compact, so full of knots and links, with colours so fresh and vivid, that you might say that all this was the work of an angel, and not of a man...”

Gerald continues, “On the night before the day on which the scribe was to begin the book, an angel stood beside him in his sleep and showed him a drawing made on a tablet which he carried in his hand, and said ‘Do you think that you can make this drawing on the first page of the book that you are about to begin?’ The scribe, not feeling that he was capable of an art so subtle, and trusting little to his knowledge of something almost unknown and very unusual, replied ‘No.’ The angel said

to him, ‘Tomorrow, tell your lady, so that she may pour forth prayers for you to the Lord, that He may open both your bodily and mental eyes for as to see the more keenly and understand the more subtly, and may direct you in the guiding of your hand.’ All this was done, and on the following night the angel came again and held before him the same and many other drawing. By the help of the divine grace, the scribe,

(Two pages for Matthew)

From earliest times, scribes copied from earlier examples in model Gospel books. There were canon restrictions on textual content but room for artistic expression. In fact, Initial pages, which were an original contribution to the Insular style, the text was subordinated to design.

Comparing Initial pages from the Gospel Books of Durrow, Echternach, Lichfield, Armagh and

certain deserving persons a miraculously enlarged mind. Such persons have, “in one moment” clearly and distinctly contemplated the “whole earth... ocean and sky...”

Adomnan, an Abbot of Iona from 679 to 704 AD, describes St. Columba as referring to ecstatic vision as being necessary to understand the “dark and difficult” sacred scriptures.

It is important to note that recent research has discovered that these large Gospel books were shown to the public only during processions during feast days and other celebrations. Otherwise, they were restricted to an inner circle of monks for contemplation and meditation.

In James Joyce’s *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Stephen Dedalus discusses how great art results in “aesthetic arrest.” He paraphrases Thomas Aquinas: “The instant wherein that supreme quality of beauty,

the clear radiance of the aesthetic image, is apprehended luminously by the mind which has been arrested by its wholeness and fascinated by its harmony is the luminous silent stasis of aesthetic pleasure, a spiritual state...”

This month I would like to begin an examination of these Initial pages in the order they appear in the *Book*.

St. Matthew’s Gospel, begins with “Liber generationis,” 29r.

The lower part of the “L” swings across the “I,” which extends down to bottom of the page, and connects to the “b” and the letters “ER” which completes “Liber.” In the outline picture, you can see three rectangles containing the letters “G (looks like a “T”) ENE, RATI, and ONIS.

An angel at the top holds a book and an angel at upper left has no face. A large figure at lower left also holds a book. A book is an important and constant motif appearing more than 30 times.

I don’t think Artist/Scribe A drew the two angels.

It’s a speculation, but there is a distinct difference in style. Artists can use different styles to draw and paint, but in this case, why would he? The angels lack the fine details that Artist/Scribe A uses. The robes do not have the supreme confidence of line work, design or use of color.

In the upper portion the spirals and roundels of knotwork reflect the mastery of line and color that is his specialty.

Next month: the greatest of all the illuminations—the Chi-Rho page.



Matthew 29r



Outline of “Lib” Monogram-like design and other sections of design



Details of spirals and roundels of knotwork

taking particular notice of them all, and faithfully committing them to his memory, was able to reproduce them exactly in the suitable places in the book. And so with the angel indicating the designs, St. Brigit praying, and the scribe imitating, the book was composed.”

This description of the book is often attributed to the *Book of Kells* but is now generally accepted as actually a book at Kildare that has since been lost.

I quote Gerald’s account from the 12th century to show that miraculous involvement was part of the origination story of the *Book of Kells* and the *Book of Kildare*. Also, there is evidence that both the *Book of Kildare* and the *Book of Kells* were at least started at the Abby at Iona.

References to the *Book of Kells* often add, “...the most magnificent of medieval manuscripts that still exist.”

In this series of columns, the focus is the five full-page Initial illuminations, which include the first phrase of each Evangelist’s Gospel.

Lindisfarne, the illuminations show a progression of the size of letters and a clear development in detail, design and historical sequence. *Kells*, however, brought the Insular Gospel books to their fullest and most intricate level. (Most likely also Kildare.)

I would like to propose that there is a distinct difference between the Initial Gospel pages and the other illustrated pages of the *Book*.

There is a range of technical ability and artistic vision shared in the pages suggesting that they all could have been done by the same artist/scribe. I think the Eight Circle Cross page was also done by the same artist/scribe, but I will discuss it separately.

It is art that seems miraculous. It pulls the viewer in for close examination. It has the quality of mystery in the intricacy of its design. The artist/scribe, although drawing on earlier models, surpassed them, producing an astounding effect on viewers. He (presumably a man) created a pattern using color, spirals and disks which appeared to be spinning and circling around, all within the frame of the holy words of God!

I think it was the intention of the artist/scribe, who I will name Artist/Scribe A, to create designs and patterns to provoke in the reader a frame of mind to receive a vision of divinity, rapture, a spiritual epiphany. A sudden spiritual manifestation of divinity—an ecstatic rapture.

The first Abbot of Iona, St. Columba, explained to his disciple, Lugbe, that divine favor bestows on



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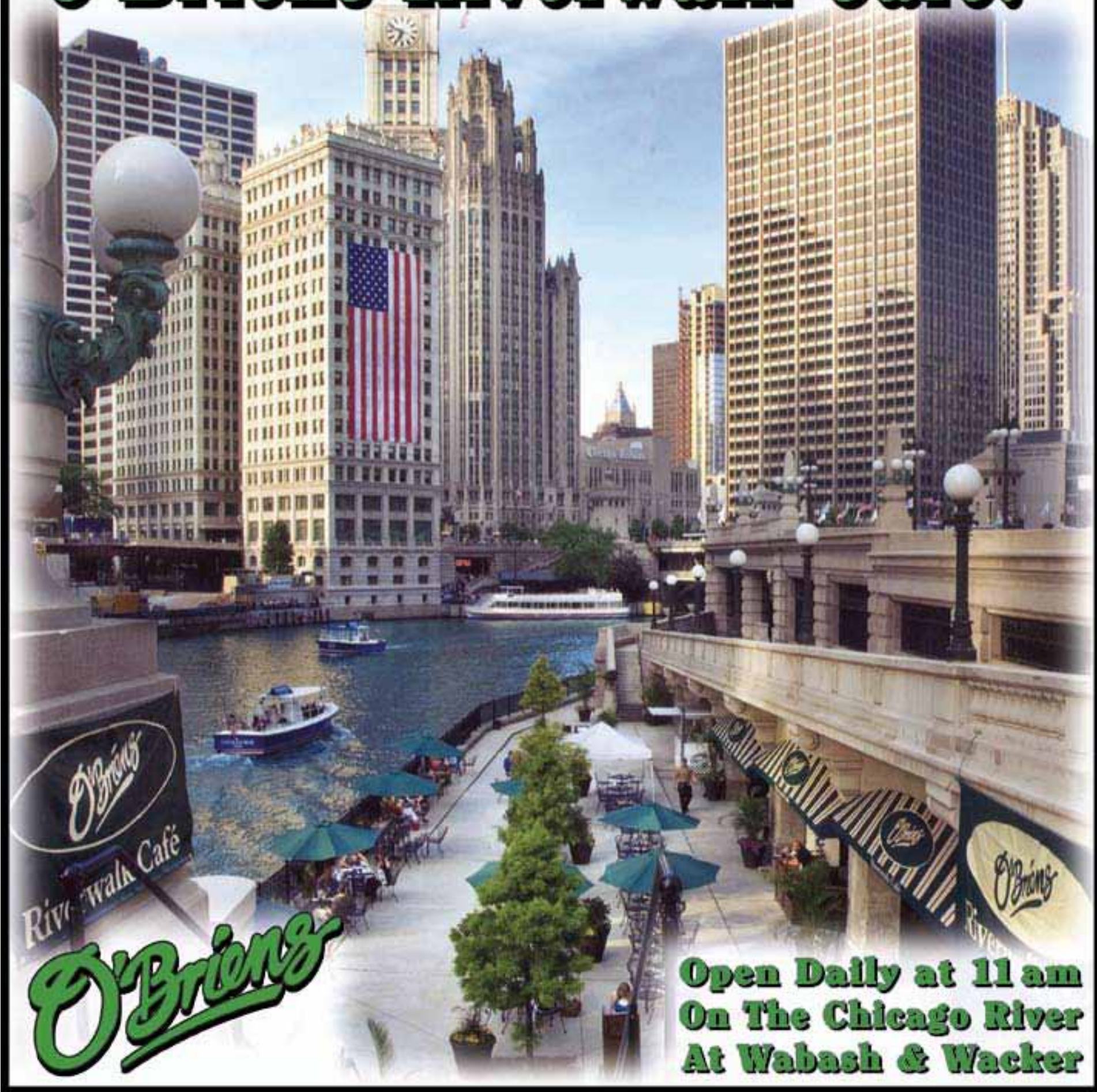


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For example, in your bedroom you might label: your leaba (bed); your drisiúr (dresser); your almóir (closet); your piliúr (pillow)... In any given



room, you'll surely have at least one balla (wall), a fuinneog (window), an urlár (floor).

Final tip: Don't write the English version of the word on the label, as you're aiming for language immersion!

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Lt. Cpl. Kylie Watson Awarded Military Cross

A British army medic who put herself in "mortal danger" to treat a wounded Afghan soldier under heavy Taliban fire has been awarded the Military Cross.



Lt. Cpl. Kylie Watson, from Ballymena, Co Antrim, gave medical care in exposed open ground for 20 minutes. Her citation spoke of her "immense courage" and "inspiration" to her platoon in Helmand province last year.

Lt. Cpl. Watson is believed to be only the fourth woman to receive the Military Cross, the third highest award for gallantry.

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pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



BIRMINGHAM risks being branded a city of party poopers after only a dozen applications were made to hold street parties for the Royal Wedding.

The council has received only 12 applications asking for permission to close roads so they could hold a street bash after the deadline ran out last week.

In contrast, neighbouring Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council are in full party mode after announcing they had received a whopping 24 applications to hold parties.

How Will I Celebrate the Royal Wedding? Like the Last One. Can it be that I have not shed a scintilla of cynicism? On 29 July 1981, I ignored the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales and Lady Dianna Spencer, like Republicans ignore good candidates in Illinois. I believe that I watched Roller Derby and dined on King Oscar Sardines, Crown Prince Smoked Oysters, Ritz Crackers and Colby washed down with 24-48 oz. of chilled Huber Beer. An epic epithalamion evening in Kankakee, Illinois, topped off with visit to St. Viator Council Knights of Columbus and a rack of eight ball with Charlie Olson, Mike DeBetta and John McKenna. That’s entertainment!

Five years later, Sunday, May 25, 1986, Charlie Olson and I drank iced bottles of Eau Claire All Malt beer from the third floor balcony of the Hickey apartment at 218 Mohawk Drive, Bourbonnais, IL as our wives and my two year old daughter Nora, joined hands with America on Rt. 45 to end hunger and poverty forever thanks to Michael Jackson, Quincy

Jones, Ed Be-gley, Jr., Scott Baio, Susan Anton and the corporate sponsors—the great folks at Coke. Charlie Olson and I taught at Bishop McNamara High School where gushing religion teachers mandated a ‘get serious’ curriculum and inspired our kids to end poverty and hunger forever.

Charlie taught Business and PE and I taught English and American literature. Charlie can count and I can read. That made us two dangerously cynical grumps. “Come on, don’t you care about starving people?”

Name two. “You are always so mean! Every time we want to have class outside out in nature you make fun of us and Thoreau.”

Guilty. Now, about your essay on transcendentalism, Caprice, it seems that you did not cite the passages you lifted from...

“Mr. Hickey! Seriously!”

As a heart-attack. Shrill is not an accurate indicator of sincerity, Caprice.

“You really don’t care about Hands Across America?”

Even less, Caprice. “Mr. Olson, come on! All of your tennis team is doing it!”

Sorry, Caprice, and I don’t wear mascara and all my team does.

“You two are so mean!”

But, consistent. Have fun on Sunday.

“Your wives are so nice.”

Yet, they married us!

Some things just can not be taken seriously. History and experience have told us that Glen

Beck’s Restoring Honor Rally, Louis Farrakhan’s Million Man March, Bono and Oprah’s RED Shopping Spree and weddings Royal are events and not the Transfiguration. Charlie and I did not hold hands, nor did we pitch tents for Elijah, Moses and Dianna Ross.

Our wives, the late Mary Cleary Hickey and Kate McKenna Olson, had a ball weeping with genuine tears at the beauty of every sound thinking and good hearted American linked sweaty palms on that very warm Sunday on Route 45, while two cynical testosterone charged and estrogen deficient beer swilling swains ignored the human heart. Damn our eyes. Eau Claire All Malt was a dandy beer—(Hibernia Brewing circa 1985-1990—Ubi Sunt!)

When my wife Mary died, I took the kids to visit a former teaching colleague and now an expatriate stock broker, Pat Mulligan and his wife in London. Nora, who was two when she toddled out with Mom to Hands Across America, became a confirmed Monarchist in one week. She saw Prince Charles! The Prince exited a limo at Buckingham Palace on the day that new ministers were being sworn into government, two months before the Omagh Bombings in 1998.

After our London idyll, we Ryan Air’d it over the Irish Sea to Shannon, Kilkee County Clare and then through the Slieve Mish Mountains Kerry to Crinna Hill-Castle Island. Following evening tea, Nora took my cousin Larry’s two grand kids on her lap and showed them her recently purchased color-photo book of the Royal Family and pointed to Sarah Duchess of York, ‘Do you know this lady, Rosin?’

The three year old Cumann na mBan cherub declaimed, “She’s a fat poxy bitch, so!”

Pearse and McDermott! Nora got an earful.

Ah, to the Royals. Well, I ignored the

wedding of Chuck and Di. Lady Di was easy on the eyes, but Bonnie Prince Ears always struck me as a bounder, cad and blackguard. Di’s kids seem to have turned out OK—far as I know. The kid getting married in few weeks has a keen eye for talent it seems. His bride-to-be is some good-looking baggage. In the sober words of the philosopher-roofer Eddie Carroll of the south side, ‘I’d take a hard run at her.’

I was educated at a time when American history and civics were taught by serious students of both disciplines. Not only that, my lessons were peppered with Catholic contributions to our way of life—Royal Free by the way. John Carroll, John Barry, James J. Shields, General Rosecrans, Kit Carson, Jim Bowie, Roger Taney, Al Smith, Bishop Sheil, and Wild Bill Donovan, Catholics all, helped form and preserve our American Republic.

Political correctness has strangled education—K-20—in the cradle. Celebrity news, PC icons, and *Books for Dummies* have replaced primary texts and solid secondary sources in the classroom. The Evanston School District made the teaching of the classics available in comic book form—Huck Finn is redacted and bowdlerized, while Tupac is in the canon of American poets. Neighbor, Please!

Worrying about the Royals replaces a studied application of knowledge about our form of government, its operations and its history.

Aside from my nodding interest in the young lady about to marry the future King, I number myself among the stout yeomanry of Birmingham, England—“Whose Wedding?”

Read More <http://www.birminghammail.net/news/top-stories/2011/04/05/only-a-dozen-applications-received-to-hold-royal-wedding-parties-in-birmingham-97319-28458678/#ixzz1eTKHHTW>

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O'BITUARIES

Friends we will miss

Kevin Moran Passes

Kevin Moran, beloved husband of Anne, nee O'Malley, passed away April 13, 2011. Resident of Skokie for 42 years. Kevin was born in Tirnauer, Newport Co. Mayo, Ireland to Thomas and Anne Moran. He immigrated to the United States in 1956 from London, England. He was



an extremely devoted husband, father, uncle and grandfather. He is survived by Anne, his wife of 50 years; children, Monica (Rick) Hirschhaut, Sheila (Rob) Reimer, Daniel (Lubby) Moran and the late son, Kevin;

grandchildren Cameron and Hayden Hirschhaut, Sydney and Quinlen Reimer and Ashleigh Capps Moran; siblings Geoffrey (Colette) Moran, Delia (Milo) Regettle and Lelia and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Thomas, Edward James and Patrick; sisters, Mary (Patrick) Burke, Kathleen (Jack) Fitzgerald, Theresa Kelly and Cecilia. Cooney Funeral Home, Park Ridge, Funeral Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Glenview. Interment at All Saints Cemetery. Proud member of Irish American Heritage Center, Shamrock American Club., and Mayo Men's Association. Devoted one year volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Words cannot express how deep this loss is and all who knew him would say the same. In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Patrick Fathers, 1347 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

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Ireland Network — Chicago

By Imelda Gallagher, IN Committee Member

I have been an Ireland Network (IN) member since moving to Chicago in 2005 and became a Committee member last year. I grew up in Galway and lived in Dublin for several years, qualifying as a Barrister before coming to Chicago where I work in the cellular phone wireless industry. I knew few people when I arrived. I heard about the IN and attended the annual ‘Ball.’ The IN provided a welcoming environment for me to meet new people in Chicago. The friendships and business contacts that I have forged through the IN have enhanced my life. IN events are diverse and interesting, ranging from informal social drinks, to political discussions on current events.

IN Chicago was established in 2003 as a business and social network of Irish people living and working in the area. The IN Charter describes members having a “common frame of reference which enables the network to act as a readily accessible and relevant forum for the sharing of individual resources, expertise, industry knowledge, business opportunities, contacts, connections; to share individual experiences, successes and challenges for the benefit of the membership at large; and to support newly-arrived Irish in their efforts to connect with the greater Chicago business and social community”. Most importantly, the IN enables these Irish people to become increasingly integrated into the Chicago community which they have chosen to call “home” and to create friendships.

IN Chicago events include the monthly ‘First Friday’ informal drinks, launched last summer, with an open invitation to everyone to join us for drinks in a designated location downtown. Venues change monthly to allow people to become familiar with the numerous wonderful Irish-owned or Irish-managed bars, restaurants and hotels in Chicago that have been so gracious in hosting these events. Next First Friday: May 6th from 6pm in the Coq d’Or in The Drake which was recently renovated. All are welcome.

In 2010, IN participated in the launch of IN USA with the Networks in New York, San Francisco, San Diego and Washington DC and with new IN groups now in Philadelphia, Seattle, Denver and Boston, with over 2,000 members nationwide. IN Chicago hosted a Dale Carnegie business skills training session for members, co-sponsored

a boat cruise with the American Ireland Fund and supported the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in a number of events. The interactive website was launched in October enabling members to connect, register for events and keep track of the IN calendar of events and those hosted by complementary groups in Chicago.

IN Chicago held its Eighth Annual Ball in The Drake Hotel in February 2011, and held its second AGM in March. The monthly ‘First Friday’ evenings will continue and there are speaker events scheduled, including an evening with acclaimed Irish author Colm Toibin in June. Summertime will see some of the events ‘out of doors.’ Check our website (www.theirelandnetwork.com) or follow us on Facebook to keep connected.

IN Chicago are delighted to collaborate with other Irish groups in



Imelda Gallagher

originally from Waterford, believes that the key to the IN’s success has been the forward looking attitude among members. Having moved to Chicago from London in 1991, he joined the IN upon its launch. At-



Ireland Network Committee Members 2011

the city, including the Irish Consulate, American Ireland Fund, Irish American Heritage Center, Irish Fellowship Club and Gaelic Park. IN also participates in fundraising for the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support and Concern.



Seamus Byrne

Seamus Byrne, current IN-Chicago President, an architect

tracted by the businesslike mindset put forward by the founding group, he wanted to get involved and has served on the Committee since 2009. He says that this attitude is still prevalent among IN members. “Most of us have a strong sense of having one foot on each side of the Atlantic, regardless of how long we have been in the Chicago area, and in these days of global connectivity, the dual identities of Irish and Chicagoan are easily compatible. Chicago has certainly been a welcoming place for Irish, and we like to think we contribute positively to the city’s rich tapestry.”

Helen Garrahy, Past President of IN Chicago, a Portfolio Manager with Heitman Investment Managers, moved to Chicago in 2003 and has been an active member. “I appreciate the familiarity of the group but with an ever expanding membership from right across the Chicago business community the Network

constantly offers opportunities to meet new contacts and friends. IN has a strong foundation and continues to strengthen as a result of consistent member support, enthusiastic volunteers and partnership with the Irish Consulate and well established organizations that help expand the reach of the Network and facilitate greater access and exposure for IN members.”

Fiona McEntee, an Immigration Law attorney, who recently opened her own law firm, became an IN Committee member last year. “I had been living in Chicago for a few years before I discovered the IN. The first event I attended was the Black Tie Ball. My husband and I met so many wonderful people at the ball and as a result, we were keen to stay involved in the organization. It is really nice to feel so connected to current events back home. The IN facilitates this connection directly by hosting speaker events (politicians/authors/journalists, etc.) and

very strongly about retaining this identity in the US. The IN gives me the perfect avenue for doing this. Its many social and networking events have been terrific for building contacts and, more importantly, friends! Coming from the rural West of Ireland to such a huge city without basically knowing anyone can be a tremendously intimidating (and frankly, terrifying) thing. Meeting with so many Irish people with similar stories is hugely refreshing. It really gives you a sense of a ‘home away from home.’ I would highly recommend The Ireland Network to any and all. If nothing else, it is nice to hear people speak and use the same words/phrases I do...”

Niamh King, Executive Director, Public and Leadership Programs: “The IN has been a terrific partner to The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. IN members have been actively interested in a broad range of Council programs but of course, also those specifically focused on Ireland. The Council was delighted to work with the IN when journalist Fintan O’Toole came to talk about his book *Ship of Fools*. We also partnered with the IN when the head of Concern, Tom Arnold, was in Chicago to discuss international development and the remarkable work his organization is doing. The Council recently worked with the IN and the Irish American Heritage Center to promote a terrific program on the Irish economy that was moderated by the Council’s own Executive Director of Studies, Dublin-born Thomas Wright. The Council’s mission has been one of public education for 89 years, and the IN has been an excellent partner for reaching out to the community.”

Martin Rouine, Irish Consul, had the following comments about the IN: “The Irish Consulate has been privileged to work with IN-Chicago since the Network’s foundation. I am pleased to say that the Network has gone from strength to strength and has become an integral part of the fabric of Irish life in this city, providing a place for all people who have a connection with Ireland to meet and develop both social and business links.”

I hope that you now have an understanding of IN Chicago. We welcome your participation in IN events and to join as a member. It is \$50 per annum which will give you access to the IN Chicago website and also the IN-USA website to connect with our members nationwide. For more information, please visit our website: www.theirelandnetwork.com.



Helen Garrahy

afterwards. I have always been very proud of my Irish heritage and felt

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Non-Verbal Elements of an Interview

When we think of the interview process, I believe that many of us are thinking about the point where you and the interviewer are sitting across a desk from each other. Obviously, your effective verbal interchange is vital to the success of your job search. But, in addition to those things that you display in the interview, there are several steps to be taken before the meeting itself.

- You need to have prepared, practiced and perfected your presentation. Rehearse your answers to the obvious questions. Do your homework on the industry, the company and ideally, the interviewer.
- Remember the interviewer is not likely to spend much time discussing issues outside of his concern. Should you be considered a vital candidate for the position s/he is trying to fill is their first concern.
- Be on time. Give yourself much more time to get to the interview site than you deem really necessary. If you get rattled by traf-

fic jams or construction delays, you probably won't present yourself as effectively as you could.

• “Clothes make the man or woman.” Corny expression I agree, but there is more than a germ of truth to it. When we are going to a social event, don't many of us tend to “dress up”? Normally, it is a sign of respect. You want to impress the interviewer positively.

• Just before the interview, find a restroom. Look in the mirror and correct any recent flaws in your “package.” Your personal appearance gives evidence of your respect and interest in the company.

• Finally, get yourself cranked up. Most performers get themselves “wired up” before they give a performance. And you are about to give a performance. Be sure to have your agenda for the interview: what are the three things that you want the interviewer to remember about you. Have you told the interviewer why you should be hired? Did you “ask for the job”?

Even before the interview begins, you should decide how you are going to present yourself. You want to be sure that showing your energy and enthusiasm is at the top of your list. Why would anyone hire a “dead fish”? As an experienced interviewer, I can assure you that interviewers don't value people who just respond to their questions. They want to learn something about the potential employee. What are your most significant achievements and how can you relate them to requirements of the job being discussed?

Here are a few specific suggestions.

• Be serious about the interview, but not about yourself. Be your best self. Smile, we all like friendly people. Smiling will offset some of your nervousness.

• Recognize that the initial impression of you is vital—many interviewers will tell you that they are 50% to a decision within the first 30 second of a first interview. Be sure that you have highlighted your best characteristics or features and obscured your least attractive ones.

• People hire other people with whom they are comfortable. If you can find some common experiences to facilitate some of the casual, introductory conversation, so much the better. Scan the interview space, do the trappings of the office tell you anything about his/her interests?

• Without being a parrot, try to mimic the fundamental interpersonal traits used by the interviewer. If he is a slow talker, perhaps you should slow down your hurried speech. If she seems to be very detailed oriented, don't throw all kinds of generalities into the conversation.

• Your attitude tells it all—play your tune, not one set by the interviewer. If s/he is having a bad day, don't let them rain on your parade. And perhaps

above all else, think of the interview as a meeting of equals. Don't think it suits you to make yourself seem small.

• Even as we have become more culturally aware, we sometimes forget that customs can differ from one company to another. Be sure you are sensitive to the company's dress code. Look the interviewer in the eye, but don't try to stare him/her down. Same with your handshake, firm but not oppressive. There is a privacy zone between two individuals facing each other, don't violate this 40 inches of neutral air.

• Be alert to the time. Once the interview goes beyond the expected time, feel free to extend an excuse to the interviewer which will allow for the conclusion of the interview. If the interviewer insists that you stay that's probably means that you are being well perceived.

There are a few things to do after the interview is over. It's considered good manners to thank the interviewer for the interview. It has become quite acceptable to do this by email rather than a formal letter or hand written note.

• Absolutely follow up after the interview. It tells the interviewer that you are really interested in the job and are a well-mannered person; both favorable conclusions. Use your good judgment regarding how often you follow up with the interviewer: every day—too much; every week—could be too much; every two weeks—could be just right.

• If you have a mutual friend with the interviewer, perhaps you could use that relationship to put you over the top.

• Rather than simply making calls to the company inquiring about the status of the decision making process, consider another approach. Could you find some significant information about their business, perhaps in lesser read publications? Could you give them a pertinent idea or two about a problem or an obstacle that was mentioned in the interviewing process? You are trying to find ways to distinguish yourself from the several other candidates they might be considering.

• If the potential employer says no, try to elicit the reason(s) for their decision. You should also do a thorough analysis of your own performance. Consider this process a learning vehicle that could enhance your next interview.

In summary, you need to realize that the interview process is the accepted way of hiring people at this point in time. So learn how to play the game well. Read a few books on the process; one recommendation comes to mind: *From Interview Disaster to Interview Master* by a buddy of mine, Bob Ward.

Best of luck in your job search; but it strikes me that the above suggestions could be applied in your everyday workplace, too. Hope you agree. *Carpe Diem.*

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL based senior executive coaching and career transition firm.

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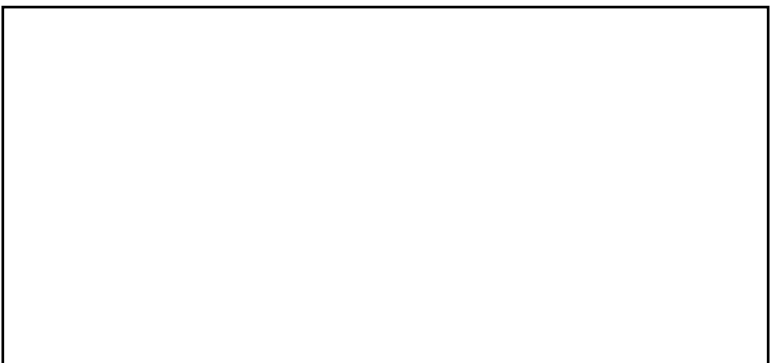
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*Pictured standing from left to right: Dennis M. Lynch, Terry Sullivan, Kevin T. Veugelst, Matthew J. Healy, Terence Geoghegan, David P. Huber, Jack Cannon
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